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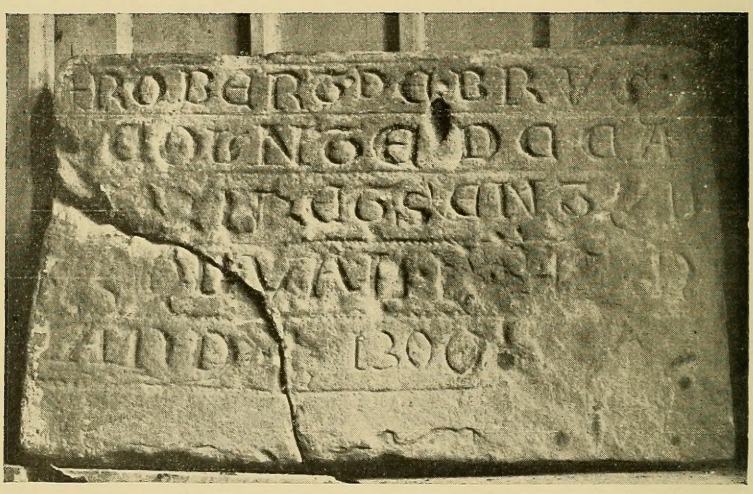

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DUMFRIESSHIRE AND GALLOWAY

NATURAL HISTORY & ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

FOUNDED 20th NOVEMBER, 1862.

TRANSACTIONS

AND

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

1915-16.

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EDITORIAL NOTE.

During the absence of Mr G. W. Shirley on active service this volume has been seen through the press by Mr R. C. Reid, who has to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs Shirley.

The Index of the last volume, which is issued separately with this volume, is the work of Mrs Shirley, to whom the Society is indebted for the care and trouble which she has taken in its preparation.

It must be understood that as each contributor has seen the proof of his paper, the Society does not hold itself responsible for the accuracy of the data given therein.

Members working on local Natural History and Archæological subjects should communicate with the Hon. Interim Secretary.

Papers may be submitted any time, preference being given to original work on local subjects.

Enquiries regarding purchase of *Transactions* and payment of subscriptions should be made to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr M. H. M'Kerrow, 43 Buccleuch Street, Dumfries.

Exchanges, presentations, and exhibits should be sent to the Hon. Interim Secretary, Ewart Public Library, Dumfries.

Proceedings and Transactions

of the

Dumfriesshire and Galloway

Natural History & Antiquarian Society.

SESSION 1915-16.

7th January, 1916.

Annual Meeting.

Chairman—Captain G. F. Scott Elliot, Vice-President.

Amongst those who apologised for absence were Mr Hugh S. Gladstone, President of the Society; Sir James Crichton-Browne, Sir P. J. Hamilton-Grierson, Sir Herbert Maxwell, Dr George Neilson, Sheriff Campion, Mr Thomas Henderson, etc., all of whom expressed themselves as strongly opposed to the suspending of the publication of the *Transactions*, as it would be fraught with danger to the future activity and standing of the Society.

Mr M. H. M'Kerrow, Hon. Treasurer, gave a short report of the secretarial work, and thereafter reported his intromissions as treasurer. He mentioned that during the year 7 members had died, 27 resigned, 8 dropped out through failure to pay subscriptions for more than two years. While 36 had not paid last year's subscription, the state of the funds showed capital at £236 2s. Income for the year was £119 6s 6d, and expenditure £121 11s 8d, shewing a debit balance of £2 5s 2d, which, considering a debit balance of £6 2s 8d at the beginning of the year and the large sum of

£87 for publications, was very satisfactory. The Treasurer indicated that this fairly comfortable position was due to the increase of the subscription last year. The report was adopted, on the motion of the Chairman.

In the course of discussion following on the recommendation of the Council—viz., that no *Transactions* be published during the war, and only a nominal subscription of 2s 6d be levied—several members of the Council stated that the reason for these recommendations was that the publication of last year's *Transactions* cost £87, an amount which could not be continued.

Mr T. A. Halliday moved that the membership for the coming year be 5s, and that the *Transactions* be published as far as funds would permit. Mr G. Macleod Stewart seconded. Mr R. C. Reid moved that the subscriptions remain at 7s 6d, the sum to which it was raised in the previous year, and Mr J. C. R. Macdonald seconded. On a division, Mr Halliday's motion was carried by a large majority.

The office-bearers of the previous year were re-elected, with Mr John M'Burnie as a new member of the Council, and Mr Robert Wallace as *interim* Secretary, in view of Mr Shirley's absence on military duty.

The Chairman and other speakers put forward the view that the Natural History side of the Society's work should be a little more encouraged.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the meeting.

21st January, 1916.

Chairman—T. A. Halliday, Vice-President.

The Greyfriars and the Moat Brae, Kirkcudbright.

By Mr J. Robison, F.S.A.(Scot.).

The monastery of the Greyfriars, which stood on part of the Moat Brae and ground occupied by the Castle of the M'Clellans Lords Kirkcudbright, and southwards beyond the castle, was the last of the conventual friaries of the Order of St. Francis of Assisi to be established in Scotland. It is not proposed here to enter into a history of the monastery, as that has already been done so far as is known.* Up till the publication of Mr Moir Bryce's history it was believed that Edward I., when he visited Kirkcudbright in 1300, placed an oblation on the altar of the Priory Church. This was due to the misreading of an entry in the Wardrobe Accounts, which refers to the Priory of St. Mary's Isle. It was not till fully a century and a half later that the Little Brothers were established in Kirkcudbright, on the most commanding site in the town, overlooking the river on the north, with the large creek, the mouth of which in after years formed the harbour, on the east, and the King's Highway, or High Street, on the south and west. It was in the summer of 1455 that James II. laid siege to Threave Castle, the last of the strongholds of the great family of the Black Douglases. During the continuance of the siege artillery was transported from Kirkcudbright to Threave, and if credence is to be given to the Kirkcudbright tradition, the inhabitants bore an active share in the operations. The King was, along with his consort, a frequent visitor to the town during the siege, as is attested by the entries in the Exchequer Rolls, and it was at this period that he founded the monastery, probably colonised by the brethren from Dumfries, and again raised the town to the status of a royal burgh, which it had occupied in the reign of Robert the Bruce.

The buildings of the Greyfriars were plain in the extreme, and in those days the Little Brothers had not wandered so far

* *The Scottish Grey Friars.* W. Moir Bryce.

from the precepts laid down by their founder. Their churches were built for preaching purposes, and had few of the attributes of stately fanes like Melrose, Dundrennan, or Sweetheart. "Their churches were large, plain, and with aisles, being designed for preaching purposes."* The Friary of Elgin appears to be the only one in Scotland the remains of which admit of the plan being traced, and shows a single oblong consisting of a nave and a choir separated by a rood loft. What the dimensions of the Kirkcudbright Church were we have no means of knowing, but we may take it that they were much smaller than those of Dumfries. The cloisters were, as a usual rule, on the south side of the church, and this must have been the case at Kirkcudbright, as the burgh records and the remains which have been found at various times show that the churchyard was to the north and east, occupying at least three-fourths of the present Moat Brae. The great dormitory usually occupied the west side of the cloister court or garth, and the kitchen and refectory the north side, with the sacristy and the chapter house on the east side. In addition there would be other apartments such as the infirmary and other offices. A good example of this plan is to be seen at Dundrennan. So far as I know, there are no deeds to show the extent of the conventual buildings and the ground occupied by them, and there is no Friars' Vennel or Friary Yard as at other places to give a clue. The principal part of Kirkcudbright Castle was built from the Convent, and that pile gives us some idea of the number of buildings, and the conformation of the ground helps in some degree. The Moat Brae rises steeply from the river side. To the south of the Castle Aisle there is a sudden dip to the street, probably the result of the formation of the portion of street connecting the High Street with St. Cuthbert and Castle Streets. The Castle, however, occupies the same level as the street, and that site may have been a natural hollow. To the south of the Castle, immediately behind Auchengool House, and between it and the west end of Castle Gardens, the ground again rises steeply, finally dipping to the level of the High Street at or near Atkinson's Close. Between that close and the river would be all

* Fletcher's *History of Architecture*.

friary land, enclosing the well-known Moat Well, which doubtless furnished the water supply for the brethren. Unfortunately, the Crown charter to Sir Thomas M'Clellan gives no indication of the ground occupied by the conventual buildings, although we are able to locate the position of the orchards. The ground I have described may be said, roughly, to be bounded on the north by the river, on the east by the harbour creek, on the south by the present line of St. Cuthbert Street and Castle Gardens, with its out buildings, and on the west by Atkinson's Close and Broughton House and gardens to the river.

In all, the monastery only existed as such for a little over a hundred years, and there are few outstanding incidents in its history. Locally, the most important was the making of a transumpt of the charter granted by James II. at Perth on 26th October, 1455.*

The charter of foundation has long ago been lost, but the Exchequer Rolls preserve the names of the wardens, which are given by Moir Bryce, I. 256. It was during the wardenship of Christopher Walker that a tack, dated 11th September, 1551, was granted, with the consent of the "convent of oure Place of Kirkcudbright, to oure luffit friend Niniane Muirhead."† This is a very interesting document, showing that the Friars, in addition to land, possessed fishings in the river. The name Creek Gait subsists to the present day, and there are those still living in the burgh who have been told by their forebears that, even up to the beginning of the nineteenth century, before the old harbour or St. Cuthbert Street were formed, this was the way to the Parish Church, the successor of the monastery, when the tide suited, for those who lived in the Millburn quarter. I therefore take it that the meadow referred to is that part of the town comprised in the north part of St. Cuthbert Street from the site of the old creek to the Commercial Hotel, and from there to the vicinity of the railway station, stretching to the river by way of St. Cuthbert Place at the one end, and by Bridge Street at the other. The

* See Hist. MSS. Com., 4th Report, p. 539.

† Published by Moir Bryce, II., 168.

convent was also possessed of lands in the neighbourhood of Dumfries.*

The history of the monastery as such was brought to a close in the autumn of 1560. Friar James Cant conformed to the new religion, and was in receipt of a pension. The burgh records show that the Town Council, when it was decided to use the monastery as the parish church, appointed him to take charge under the title of "Kirkmaster." The appointment was annual, the salary being three merks. Cant had an additional merk for looking after the Tolbooth, and in 1578 the kirk session authorised him to make a charge of "two shillings for every marriage, and twelve pence for the baptism of every substantial man's child and sixpence for the simple folks, the said Kirkmaster finding a form and book to the bridegroom and bride, and conveying them to the solemnization and having a basin and towel to the baptism."

The Town Council showed little desire, in common with others, to take possession of the friary or its church and crofts, or to apply the rents and buildings for the maintenance of schools and hospitals and other godly purposes. Even the request formulated by the General Assembly in June, 1564, for "obtaining the gift of the Freirs' Kirk of Kirkcudbright to be holden hereafter as the Parish Kirk of Kirkcudbright" passed unheeded.† One other glimpse of the Friary we obtain about this period. An English officer, or spy, making a report on the defences of the town and neighbourhood, says that "at the full sea thei (ships) may pas up and lye at all tymes under the freres of the town."

Five years later, on 6th December, 1569, Sir Thomas M'Clellan of Bombie, the Provost of the burgh, obtained a charter of the site and buildings of the place and church. It is difficult indeed to believe that the buildings could be in the state described in the charter. It is more than probable that the astute Provost, seeing the apathy of the Council, obtained the charter for his own aggrandisement, and the use of the

* Moir Bryce, II., 169.

† Moir Bryce, I., 254.

buildings for the erection of his castle, and in this he was only following the lead of others more highly placed.

The Town Council soon deeply regretted their former apathy, and whereas before they could have had the Friars Kirk free as a parish church, in the near future they were to pay some what dearly for the privilege of worshipping within its walls. They found that the Friary Kirk and that of St. Andrew's, which stood on the site of the present County Buildings, could be acquired for the burgh by the excambion* of a tenement known as the Peithouse, and a payment of two hundred merks and one hundred bolls of lime.

The final clause of the disposition by Sir Thomas M'Clellan to the burgh shows that men, even in 1570, were by no means satisfied that the new religion had been firmly established, and the astute Provost was taking the best means of protecting his interests should there be a return to the old regime.

The charter to Sir Thomas M'Clellan fairly accurately describes the boundaries of the conventual possessions in the town. The expression "between the river and the sea" on the north, our highway on the west, and the land of Robert Forrester on the south shows that the possessions were bounded on the east by the creek which ran from what was in after days the harbour across St. Cuthbert Street, and on between Castle Street and the present Church grounds to the Meikle Yett near Townend, in front of Old Bank House, where it connected with the burgh fosse. On the west it was bounded by the High Street, which then ran in the same line, so that, allowing for the buildings of St. Andrew's Kirk and the kirkyard in connection with it, these boundaries can be fairly accurately fixed. As regards the southern boundary, an entry in the Great Seal Register† shows that the land behind South High Street was in the possession of burghers, so that the line of that street may be taken as fixing the boundary.

Up to the year 1730, when the ancient church was entirely demolished, there is little to be gleaned about it beyond the bare record of the ministers. From the time of the Reformation till

* Given in full by Moir Bryce, II., 170.

† Given by Moir Bryce, II., 171.

that year there were sixteen, including the celebrated John Welsh, son-in-law of the great Reformer, John Knox.

At a meeting of Kirkcudbright Town Council, held on 9th December, 1728, it was ordained that the petition of the Honourable Mr Basil Hamilton anent his room and gallery in the church, for himself and his tenants, be recorded in the burgh court books, and allow extracts to be given out therefor in common form. The petition was in the following terms:—

"Unto the Right Honourable the Magistrates and Town Council of the Burgh of Kirkcudbright. The petition of the Honourable Mr Basil Hamilton of Baldoon showeth that, 'as I am proprietor of the most considerable part of the landward parish of Kirkcudbright, I conceive myself entitled to a proportionate room in the Church of Kirkcudbright for my own family and tenants, and there being no part as yet allowed for me, may it please your Honours to allot a certain piece in west end of the said church, from top to bottom, where I may erect a gallery for my family and seats for my tenants, upon granting whereof I hereby engadge to keep the roof and windows of that part of the church in good and sufficient condition at my own charges, and that my said seats and gallery shall not prejudge the light to the other seats in the church. Your answer is waited by the subscriber, Basil Hamilton. Kirkcudbright, 7th of 1728.'" The Magistrates and Council found the request just and reasonable, and gave their consent under certain restrictions, but the proposed alterations were never carried out.

On 14th November, 1729, it is recorded in the Town Council books that the Magistrates and Council took into their serious consideration the ruinous condition of the church. It had been rendered unsafe for the inhabitants of the town and parish to meet in for public worship; but in the meantime the Council, because of the unseasonable time of the year for repairing the church, judged it proper that Lord Kirkcudbright be applied to for the use of the castle wherein public worship might be performed till the church be put in condition for the congregation to meet in. (This reference to the castle is rather interesting as showing that the castle was still in possession of the family of the Lords Kirkcudbright, but that it was not occupied.) Because it was thought that the renovation of the church would cast too

great a financial burden on the town, the Council, before further consideration of the matter, appointed a committee to wait upon Mr Hamilton and Mr Lidderdale of Torrs (the latter the representative of the Lidderdales of St. Mary's Isle), two of the principal heritors of the parish, desiring their advice as to procedure. The conference took place the following day, when both gentlemen, with the concurrence of Mr John Brown, the proprietor of the lands of Bank and Howwell, and the other heritors of the landward part of the parish, engaged that they would at their own expense build a sufficient "Jamm" to the church capable of accommodating themselves and their tenants, and to keep the same in repair after it was built in all time thereafter, which jamm was to be in the centre of the church and the pulpit to be fixed opposite thereto on the other side of the church. The town also engaged to put the church, or at least so much as they should see proper, for accommodating themselves, in good and sufficient condition, and to keep the same so at their own proper charges in all time thereafter.

On the second day of December, 1729, John Mack, mason, who was a native of Perthshire, and the builder of Tongland old bridge, appeared before the Council, and stated that, in general, very little of the old fabric would stand; but the Magistrates wished to have a particular estimate, and this was furnished to the Council a few days after. An estimate had been received from Mack, which, after deduction of £28 for two lofts, amounted to £121 5s, the whole work necessary for the kirk being included. The Council unanimously judged that the sum mentioned, considering the state of the town's revenue, and the many burdens it was charged with, was too great to be raised on the credit of the town's common stock, and therefore that it was proper and convenient to try what sum might be raised by the voluntary subscription of themselves and the other burgesses and inhabitants.

On 25th February, 1730, the Magistrates and Council ratified the contract for building the church made between them and John Mack, mason, the contract being signed on the 20th. The financial obligation on the part of the town was evidently a serious matter, and the Council met repeatedly to consider as to ways and means of raising £135, which was to be paid at different periods. Subscriptions, however, appeared to have

come in fairly well, not only from inhabitants of the burgh but from natives in other parts.

The contract is too long for reproduction here. Mack, who is described as "masson att Cally," undertook to erect a kirk on the same site 66 feet long by 20½ feet wide, with a large door in each gavel and a "small door for the minister with a window at top." Six other arched windows 8½ feet high gave the lighting; "a sufficient jamm," 30 feet long by 20½ feet wide, was to be added, with four arched windows and a gavel door. A gallery for the magistrates extended from the jamm to the church gavel "with a door and stair without the church on the north side for an entry to it." Similar provision was made for another gallery. The corners, doors, windows, and skews were to be of hewn freestone, and the whole work roughcast without. Mack was to use the old materials and to "redd out the whole walls of the foundations." The jamm was to cost £93, but that was not paid by the town.

From the terms of the contract it is somewhat difficult at first sight to grasp the form of the church, but a plan of the burgh and its environments in the early years of the nineteenth century shows that it was in the form of a cross, and indeed much on the principle of the present Parish Church. An original water colour sketch at St. Mary's Isle, shows the interior. The jamm spoken of in the contract was the St. Mary's Isle aisle, or "Country Aisle," as it was more often termed. The pulpit faced this portion of the church, the minister having the Magistrates' gallery on his right and the gallery of the Incorporated Trades on his left, while the "Castle Aisle," the burial place of the Lords Kirkcudbright, in later years the nucleus of the Old Church School, was immediately behind, and had not been involved in the building operations. The plan is valuable as showing landmarks in the town which have disappeared in the course of the years, including the creek on the east, running across St. Cuthbert Street, with three branches. The centre branch in ancient times ran in a southerly direction to join the old burgh fosse near the site of the Meikle Yett. The eastern branch ran through the hollow between the present Parish Church and Daar Lodge, and the third branch

trended in a south-western direction, and flowed up to about where the Post Office is at the present day.

To help to defray the cost of the church it was resolved by the Council to apply to the Convention of Royal Burghs for assistance, Provost William Gordon being appointed their Commissioner. All that the Provost could procure, however, was the appointment of the Commissioners for the burghs of Dumfries, Annan, and New-Galloway to visit Kirkcudbright and report on the condition thereof to the next Convention. In the month of July there was reported to the Council a donation of six pounds six shillings Scots from David Bean, "merchant in England," and great-grandfather of Mr Bean, editor of the *Liverpool Albion*, to be applied to building a bell-house on the end of the church. This bell-house was built, and was erected on the end of the church facing what was in after days Castle Street. During the month of December the Council took into consideration the manner in which the church should be divided and seated. They enacted that, in the centre of the church there should be an empty square of twelve feet wide and twenty feet long for the administration of the Sacrament, and that from thence to each door of the church there should be an area three feet at least wide. They also enacted that public intimation be made by tuck of drum to the inhabitants who felt inclined to take seats to apply to the Town Clerk. To implement this they resolved to have thirty-two seats erected by the wrights of the town.

Provost William Gordon was appointed Commissioner to the Convention in July, 1731, and on his return he reported that he had been able to obtain a grant of £20 towards the cost of the church. That same month the church seats were assigned, with the proviso that those who had not paid their subscriptions would have none assigned till they paid up the last farthing! The next consideration was the erection of a new pulpit, estimated to cost £10 at least, and £34 to "plaister ye church overhead;" £20 to flag the church; besides the yearly expense of keeping the church in repair.

At the September meeting of the Council Provost Gordon reported that he had agreed with Charles Brown to erect the pulpit and plaster the roof of the church at a cost of £29.

Entries regarding the church cease at this period, so that we may conclude that all difficulties had been smoothed away, and that the congregation had taken possession of their new building.

THE BASIL WAREHOUSE.

A building which was a prominent landmark on the Moat Brae for a century and a half was the Basil Warehouse. The building was erected in 1734 on the petition of John Milligan and Thomas Kirkpatrick, the latter being Provost at a later period. These two men petitioned for warrant to erect a warehouse, with yard on the east end of the church, and the agreement with the Town Council is valuable as showing the position of the churchyard. They were associated with a number of others who intended to carry on foreign trade, and towards this end they intended making a small wharf for unloading goods. A committee of the Council met, along with Charles Brown and Adam M'Kie, described as "two skilful workmen." They measured out "what part of ye said east end of ye churchyard can be spared to use mentioned in ye petition, and they having inspected ground Its all yr oppinion There may be spared to ye petitioners fore ye foresd use part or plot yrof of east syde of ye ash tree as its now measured out and marked yrfrom for ye number of sixty-six foot southward into ye body of ye churchyard, and then to be carried in way of angle Ten or Twelve foot to ye Southeastward, and thence in a direct line toward ye East, which will no wise prejudge ye Entry to ye Church, there being at least Thirty foot from ye Northeast corner of Ye Church To ye nearest part of ye above markes and ye dyke or wall to be drawn by ye petitioners on ye South syde is no ways to prejudge ye common high way from ye East end of Church by ye Creek to ye Milnburn [the Creek Gait of the deed of 1551]; and its also ye Committee's oppinion ye petitioners may advance yr warehouse and wharff as farr to ye shoar northward and to ye Creek Eastward opposite to ye foresaid plott as they think needfull." The above shows very clearly that the churchyard covered most of the ground of the Moat Brae to the east of the church, and which was in after days covered with various places of business, finally swept away in 1895, by agreement between the Town Council and the late Captain Hope of St. Mary's Isle.

If further confirmation were needed, it was supplied in the remains which were extensively found at various times.

The Committee on 26th January, 1734, agreed to set to the petitioners for one merk Scots yearly, a space of 30 feet from their westmost wall to the east gavel of the church, no passage being preserved from the Creek through the churchyard.

From the foregoing it will be inferred that the Chapel of the Friars occupied approximately the same site as the church of 1730, and was probably no greater in extent than its modern successor. It is worth while pointing out, in connection with this latter church, that in the present Parish Church we have the Moat Brae Church reproduced on a much larger scale, and it is more than probable that the Friary Church was on the same plan. The ancient churchyard must have been of comparatively small extent, and my opinion in this respect is borne out by ex-Provost M'Ewen, who tells me that, in the course of his business, he had to excavate part of his yard on the north-east corner of the Brae, and that there was no sign whatever of burials ever having taken place there.

Passing over fully a century, from the building of the new church, we find, on 11th September, 1835, a committee of the Council reporting that they had attended a meeting of the landward heritors the preceding day. The report showed that the building was totally inadequate for the needs of the population, and that there was imperious need for a new and more commodious building. Immediate steps were taken to erect a new church, the foundation stone being laid with great ceremony on 22nd April, 1836. On 26th February, 1839, notice was given in the Council that steps be immediately taken, in conjunction with the Earl of Selkirk, to remove the old church on the Moat Brae, with the exception of the Castle Aisle, reserved by Lord Selkirk. It was also resolved that a wall be built round the Moat Brae, material being reserved from the church. From the terms of Mack's contract, one may infer that much of the Friars' Chapel was used in the building operations of 1730, and again a considerable portion of the Parish Church was used in building the wall round the mound. The materials of the old church realised the gross sum of £99 3s 2d. The only portions of the old edifice which can now be traced is a doorway, forming a Gothic

arch, leading into the back premises of Old Bank House, and other sculptured stones in the buildings at the gas works may still be seen. The poor remains were built into the wall which runs round the mound at the present day.

On 26th June, 1839, the Council came to an agreement with Lord Selkirk for marking off the boundaries of the building and making some slight addition to it. It was shortly after this that the aisle, with the addition made by Lord Selkirk, was converted into Old Church School.

Little more remains to be told. By agreement between the Town Council and the late Captain Hope, R.N., of St. Mary's Isle, the Basil Warehouse, the weigh-bridge with its quaint arch, and the shipbuilding and woodyards, were swept away in 1895. The ground was laid out as a pleasure resort, and is the favourite haunt of townspeople and visitors. At various times human remains have been found in the eastern portion, many of them in a fair state of preservation. It may be presumed that the kirkyard had been discontinued as such at or before the building of the 1730 church, as a Council minute of 19th February, 1735, shows that St. Cuthbert's Churchyard was the principal burial place then. On that date the Council ordered the wall round St. Cuthbert's Churchyard to be rebuilt and some trees sold, the "kirkyard being so insufficiently fenced that cattle pastured in it." Leaves were also ordered to be put on the gate.

The Grey Friars were established in Kirkcudbright for little more than a century, but their name and memory still linger. They and the noble family who succeeded them in the possession of their property have gone, but while the old Castle Aisle and the grey ruins of the home of the Lords Kirkcudbright exist, a memorial of the Little Brothers of St. Francis will not fail in our midst.

The Fasciation of Plants.

By Provost S. ARNOTT, F.R.H.S.

Cultivators of plants are often interested in various developments which are of an abnormal character, and which may occur from time to time among their plants. Among these abnormal appearances we may place what is known as

fasciation, which is in reality the union or banding together of two or more of the stems, or the inflorescences, of the plant, this union, in the case of the stems, generally presenting a flattened appearance. This usually results in the inflorescence assuming a crowded and often really deformed appearance. It is to be found occasionally in nature, as well as in gardens, and though not specially frequent, except in certain propagated subjects, comes now and again within the ken of the observer. What is the reason for this condition? Can it be produced artificially? Is it a sign of redundant vigour or of injury or disease?

Fasciation has not been much studied, and I have been unable to lay my hands on anything but the most meagre statements regarding it, so that what I have to say is mainly the result of my own observations during a series of years.

The question, "Can it be produced artificially?" can possibly be answered best by citing the statement of an eminent French observer and botanist, M. L. Geneau de Lamarliere, who made a series of experiments. He informs us that the mutilation he practised upon the stems and branches of the subject selected for experiment caused the formation of dormant abnormal buds, and that these developed into branches and inflorescences which were more or less fasciated. This mutilation was practised on the principal stems and branches, and the natural assumption from these experiments was that fasciation arises originally from mutilation. The experience of this French botanist was, it may be remarked, apparently confined to experiments upon one subject, *Crepis taraxacifolia*, one of the Hawksbeards. I should have liked to have had the opportunity of knowing more about these experiments, as the plant chosen hardly answers to the account of the experiments, seeing that this is not a woody plant, and branches in the ordinary sense of the term are non-existent. I think, however, we may accept the statement of the botanist that such fasciation was produced in this way. There is nothing inherently improbable in the statement, and the probabilities are all in its favour.

We come to the question of whether it is a sign of redundant vigour or of disease. This is much more difficult

to answer; and I propose to put before you some observations upon the plants which show fasciation, and which have come under my own observation.

The garden Asparagus is cited as a plant which is very frequently fasciated, but I do not think that it is so commonly met with in this condition. It has but seldom come under my notice, and I recollect that upwards of eleven years ago a gardener of some thirty years' experience sent me a growth of Asparagus which was fasciated, as he had never seen one like it before. He had been in gardens practically all his life, so that it was rather surprising that he had not met with a fasciated stem of Asparagus before.

I have seen several such, but not a great number. They are quite flattened and almost sword-like in shape. Occasionally one may meet with fasciated branches and twigs on trees, but I think this is not so common with hard-wooded subjects as with those of a different nature.

I have seen fasciation in the Dandelion, the Crepis, the Hawkweed, the Daisy, and several other wild plants. In the garden I have met with it comparatively frequently. It has occurred with *Primula denticulata, Primula japonica,* and a few other flowers in single specimens. In all these cases the fasciation was accompanied by crowded flowers, caused, of course, by the fact that fasciation consists really of the union of a number of cells, frequently the union in a bud condition of cells which in an ordinary way would have constituted two or more stems, each bearing its own quota of flowers.

I could not account for this fasciation on the ground of mutilation, though it may have been caused by some injury to the crown of the plants when in a dormant or semi-active condition.

A still more interesting point is that of the continuance and perpetuation of the fasciated condition of certain plants. This raises the question of how far accidental or intentional modifications may pass to the progeny of the original plant. It is a question for physiologists, but it must be remembered that the reproductive organs of plants are often buds, and

that these are more likely to reproduce this fasciation in the progeny than the subjects which are reproduced by seeds.

I do not think that it is generally known, however, that the Cockscomb of gardens, once a favourite plant, is a prominent example of fasciation, and one, too, which is reproduced almost constantly and without reversion from seeds. It is, I consider, a remarkable thing that this is the case. It further renders the suggestion that fasciation is originally caused by mutilation, less convincing.

Another instance of fasciation is supplied by one of the *Sedums*, or Stonecrops. A form of *Sedum reflexum*, called *cristatum*, is fasciated in an almost similar way to the Cockscomb, but in this case the fasciation is not so apparent and needs to be looked for. It is not constant, even on this particular form of *S. reflexum*. The stems are broad and flat, and quite cockscomb-like in their appearance.

One of the most interesting examples of fasciation which have come within my cognisance is that of the white variety of the common Martagon Lily, *Lilium Martagon album*. I am speaking subject to correction, but I am not aware of the appearance of a fasciated form of the ordinary purple-flowered Martagon Lily. It may exist, but, if so, I have never seen or heard of it. On the other hand, there is a fasciated form of the white Martagon Lily, and this has a tendency to produce a large proportion of plants with this abnormal feature. In the case of this lily, however, it is remarkable that there are some stocks which never produce fasciated stems, and there are others which rarely produce perfect plants. This fact has come under my observation numbers of times. The plants which bear fasciated stems are dwarfed, ungainly, and devoid of beauty, while those which are not fasciated are tall, graceful, and attractive in every way. The fasciated stocks give their flowers in an ugly capitulum.

A question which arises here is, whether conditions of soil have any effect on fasciation or not? I cannot think so, as the fasciated stems and heads are produced by these fasciated forms under diverse conditions of soil, and that in certain cases at least this condition is hereditary. I am persuaded that it is hereditary in the case, at least, of the Cocks-

comb, the form of *Sedum reflexum*, and the particular stocks of *Lilium Martagon album*.

Here is a theory which I advance for consideration. It may best be put by asking a question. Is this fasciation not somewhat analogous to the process of nature which has evolved the *Polyanthus*, the *Auricula*, and many other flowers which have sent up a stem bearing a head of flowers? It is possible that it is the same, but that Dame Nature has had her methods interfered with in some hidden way. I do not pretend to be sure about anything in connection with this question of fasciation, which is simply the union of certain cells which under normal conditions would have been produced independently. I am, therefore, introducing the question of fasciation in plants with the view of interesting others in these phenomena of plant life which are difficult to solve, but which cannot escape our notice when once brought before us.

11th February, 1916.

Chairman—G. MACLEOD STEWART, Vice-President.

Some Galloway Products.

By Rev. C. H. DICK, B.D., Moffat.

In these days when attention is being directed to the resources of our country, it is interesting to recall certain products with which the name of Galloway has been associated in the past. By the nature of the case such a review must consist mainly of quotations from old writers who have alluded to them.

"Know we not Galloway nags?" says Pistol in *The Second Part of King Henry the Fourth*. King Robert is said to have been mounted on one when he met Sir Henry de Bohun on the field of Bannockburn—the breed was well adapted for that rapid manœuvring by which the King evaded the onslaught of his assailant and then slew him. William Lithgow, the author of *The Totall Discourse of the Rare Adventures and painfull Peregrinations of long nineteene Yeares*, whose obser-

vations were made in 1628, says: "This country aboundeth in bestiall, especially in little horses, which for metall and riding, may rather be termed bastard barbs than Gallowedian naggs." The following passage occurs in the *Description de Galoway*, by John Maclellan, in Blaeu's *Atlas* published at Amsterdam in 1662: "*En ninguno de los puestos, o territorios de Escocia son las lanas tan finas, y de tan buena raca los cavallos, puesto que pequenos, los del pays les llaman* Galoway-nages; *de suerte que ocasiona la prerogativa desta tierra en esla especie el comun termino entre los Ingleses, que hairendo de alabar la generosidad, partes, a servicio bueno de un cavallo, le llaman* Galoway, *como por exemplo en Espana Xerezano, o Cordoves.*"* Defoe, writing about 1725, gives a brief but more detailed account of these animals. He says: "The People of Galloway . . . have the best Breed of strong, low, punch Horses in *Britain*, if not in Europe, which are from thence called *Galloways*. These Horses, which are very much bought up in *England*, are remarkable for being good natural Pacers, strong, easy Goers, hardy, gentle, well-broken, and, above all, not apt to tire." The breed was becoming scarce by the eighteenth century, and it is said that the second Earl of Stair, when he was abroad as an ambassador, sometimes selected a pair of Galloway nags as a gift for persons of distinction. Robert Heron, who made a tour through Galloway in 1792, says that the province "was anciently famous for a small breed of horses, very little larger than the horses of the Highlands and of Shetland, known commonly by the name of Shelties. That race are no longer preserved unmixed here. Nor does the breeding of horses enter so much as it once did into the œconomy of the farmers in these parts. Irish horses are often imported into Galloway." A writer in *The Statistical Account* of 1845 explains why the breed became scarce, and gives further details: "A

* In no place or territory in Scotland are the fleeces so fine or the horses of a better breed, although they are small. The local name for the latter is Galloway Nags. In view of the reputation of this region in this matter, Englishmen are in the habit of testifying to the breeding, good proportions, and worth of a horse by calling it a Galloway, just as, for example, in Spain good horses are attributed to Xeres or Cordova.

small breed of horses, from twelve to fourteen hands high, was formerly common, and held in high estimation in Galloway. There being little occasion to employ them in the draught, they travelled quickly and safely, in a rugged and mountainous country. The ancient breed is now almost lost. Horses of greater weight became necessary, as those every way fitted for predatory excursions ceased to be of peculiar value for the operose processes of agriculture. Their colour is generally a light bay or brown, with black legs; their heads were unusually small, and their whole form indicated a capability of enduring great fatigue. The horses now to be found in Galloway, with the exception of being rather smaller in size, differ little from those found throughout Scotland." The Galloway nag would be classed correctly, no doubt, under "the northern, or dun, type, represented by the dun ponies of Norway *(Equus caballus typicus)*, the closely allied Celtic pony *(E. c. celticus)* of Iceland, the Hebrides, etc., and the wild pony of Mongolia *(E. c. przewalskii)*, with which the now extinct tarpan of the Russian steppes appears to have been identical." MacKerlie refers to the belief that the horses were introduced into Galloway from Scandinavia by the Northmen.

My notes on Galloway sheep and cattle are briefer, but could no doubt be extended by a study of various agricultural surveys. According to a writer in *The Statistical Account*, "the native sheep of Galloway was a small, handsome white-faced breed with very fine wool. . . . This breed has long ago disappeared." Lithgow thought the wool "nothing inferiour to that in Biscai of Spaine; providing they had skill to fine, Spin, Weave, and labour it as they should. Nay, the Calabrian silke, had never a better luster, and softer gripe, then I have seene and touched this growing wooll there on Sheepes backes; the Mutton whereof excelleth in sweetnesse." The only breed that thrives on the mountains to-day is the Scottish blackfaced.

Galloway cattle are hornless, and have rough, black, glossy coats. They resemble the Aberdeen-Angus breed. The shaggier coat is nature's response to the wetter climate of the south-west as compared with the north-east. There is also a white-belted Galloway breed representing an ancient stock. The

native cattle are valued for beef. Ayrshire cattle have been introduced into the province in large numbers for dairy farming.

Sir David Dunbar of Baldoon was the first man in Wigtownshire, "perhaps," says Sir Andrew Agnew, "the first in Scotland, to rear cattle on a large scale for the English market." 'In this parish of Kirkinner," says Andrew Symson, the author of *A Large Description of Galloway*" written in 1684, "Sir David Dunbar of Baldone hath a park, about two miles and an halfe in length, and a mile and an halfe in breadth; the greatest part whereof is rich and deep valley ground, and yeelds excellent grass. . . . This park can keep in it, winter and summer, about a thousand bestiall, part whereof he buys from the countrey, and grazeth there all winter, other part whereof is of his owne breed; for he hath neer two hundred milch kine, which for the most have calves yearly. He buys also in the summer time from the countrey many bestiall, oxen for the most part, which he keeps till August or September; so that yearly he ether sells at home to drovers, or sends to Saint Faiths, Satch, and other faires in England, about eighteen or twentie score of bestiall."

The Galloway pippin, the last of the products to be mentioned now, came, says MacKerlie, from the orchard of the friary at Wigton. "Over one hundred years ago," he says, "two trees, then about a century old, remained, from which grafts were sent to all parts." The fruit was a very fine apple, and became known in England as the Galloway pippin. It was, no doubt, introduced by the friars.

The Early History of the Corries of Annandale—A Further Contribution.

By R. C. Reid of Mouswald Place.

Professor Christopher Johnston, in this valuable notice of the "Early History of the Corries,"* has scarcely omitted any references of importance. As, however, a pedigree chart of the family would be of assistance, it is given here, together

* See *Trans. D. and G. Nat. Hist. and Antiq. Soc.*, 1912-13, p. 86.

with one or two notes which add to it, and which have escaped the notice of the Professor. Where a query mark precedes a name in the pedigree chart, it shows that the proof of parentage is wanting.

In the 12th century there was a Randolph de Corri, who witnessed a charter of Overdryfe by Dom. David de Torthorwald to Henry de Graham (Reg. Hon. de Morton, i., 3). Owing to the proximity of Overdryfe to Corrie, there is reason to conjecture that Randolph may have been a son of Hugh de Corri, 1165-1218.

In 1238 a John Curry of Scotland was a clerk at Oxford (Close R., 1237/42, 134).

A Robert de Curri was a witness to a Carrick charter, 1214-49 (Ch. de Melros, i., 172). If conjecture is permissible, he may have been a brother of Walter de Corry (1).

Amongst the witnesses of the Kenmure charter, dated by Douglas at 1276, was Sir Donald, the son of Corry (Aitken MSS.).

Walter de Corry (2) died in 1303. He had previously had quittance of the common summons of the Justice Eyre in Cumberland on 27th October, 1278 (Close. R. 1272/9, 509), and again in 1292 along with David de Torthorwald and others (Close R., 1288/96, 272). In 1300 he was described as nephew of Richard de Levington (Fine R., i., 430). He was dead by 10th October, when an order was issued to the escheator beyond Trent to take into the King's hands the lands of the late Walter de Corry (Fine R., i., 483). The inquisition was held on 20th October and on 30th January, 1304, the same escheator was ordered to deliver the said lands to Walter de Corry, the son of the dead man (ibid., 487).

Sir Walter de Corri (3), born in 1281, joined the Scots, and was knighted in 1315. His lands being forfeited, a moiety of them in Kirklevington and Kirkandrews was granted to Robert Tilliol in October, 1317 (Cal. Pat. R., 1313/17, 538). Richard de Kirkbride obtained the rest. He was dead by 1350, being succeeded by his son, Walter de Corri (4). The Adam de Corry whom the Professor suggests was brother to Sir Walter was, with Sir Walter, a witness

to the grant of Comlongan by Randolph, Earl of Moray, to his nephew William (Annandale Peerage Case, Evidence, p. 796), probably in 1329 (Scots Peerage, i., 216). Adam is there described as seneschal of Annandale. Like his father, Walter (4) adhered to the Scots, but in order to safeguard his lands, seems to have had some arrangement with the English who occupied Annandale, whereby his brother John was infeft in the Corrie estates. At anyrate on 26th December, 1350, Henri de Percy, Lord of Alnwick, made an indenture with John, son of Monsiere Walter de Corri, chevalier, whereby John was granted by Percy all the lands in the valley of Annandale which had been gifted by Edward de Balliol, King of Scots, to Percy, through the forfeiture of Walter de Corri (4) (Percy Chart, 437). Two days later John described as son and heir of Walter de Corri, chevalier, was party to a writ, granting in return to Percy an annual rent of 10 merks for these lands (ibid.). On 13th May, 1351, confirmation of these arrangements was received from William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton and Lord of Annandale. The lands are therein stated to have been forfeited from Monsire Walter de Corrie, eldest brother (frae eynez) of John de Corri, the grantee (ibid, 436). From this it is clear that Walter (4) supported the Bruce party and his brother, probably by collusion, the Balliol claimant.

Walter de Corri (4) never got back the lands. Probably he died childless before the English occupation of Annandale ceased. He owned land in Edinburgh, and died before 6th December, 1365 (R.M.S., 203, new vol.). In addition to his brothers John and Robert of Newbie, he probably had another brother in the person of William de Corrie, rector of Kawnan and Dronok, who was dead by 1363 (P.P., 475 and 480; and P.L., ii., 382). John de Corrie, who succeeded Walter (4), during King David's reign, resigned the lands of Molyn, Erymantoun, Rahill and Monygapp to James de Douglas (Reg. Hon. de Morton, i., 58).

With regard to the Corries of Newbie, Robert de Corry, alleged to be the first of that line, was still alive in 1371, for on 31st January of that year he resigned to Sir James de Douglas his rights to the tenement in Moffat formerly belong-

ing to Thomas de Torthorwald (Reg. Hon. de Morton, ii., 96).

Of other undesignated Corries who might receive mention, we have notice of an Adam de Corry, a witness at Dalkeith, 10th July, 1411 (R.M.S., new vol., 932), who may be identified with Adam Cory (or Tore), who was granted the privilege of exchange in all Scotland by David II. (R.M.S., new vol., app. ii., 1168). He may have been a descendant of the Seneschal of Lochmaben, 1333.

Adam, the financier of 1411, was probably related to the John of Corry who lent his house in Edinburgh to the Lords of the Exchequer to be used as a mint at a rental of £5 in 1359 (Ex. R., i., 616). Another Edinburgh Corry of the period was Walter Curry, merchant of Dundee, in 1342, who helped to capture Edinburgh Castle, for which he received £100 and was appointed custumar of Edinburgh (Ex. R., i., intro.). Another Walter de Curry (at Innerkathyve) received in 1406 payment of £3 6s 8d (Ex. R., iv., 6).

The will of an Adam Correy, of Kingston-super-Hull, is recorded for 29th January, 1391 (Surtees Soc., 1836, p. 148). The Court Fool in 1497 was a . . (? Peter) . . Curry (L.H.T., i., intro.).

Turning now to Thomas of Corry of that Ilk, who was dead by 1452, in addition to the doubtful Walter of Corry (1450), who may have been his brother, we have references to another problematical brother in Herbert of Corry (1456), who suffered escheat of 15 bolls of oatmeal (Ex. R., vi., 195).

A George of Corry would seem to have been dead nine years by 1454, during which period the fermes of Ellerbek, Middleby, Cummertrees, Howgill, and Middeby were in the King's hands (Ex. R., v., 668 and 671). It is difficult to place this George in the pedigree, unless he be father or brother of Thomas de Cory, who died 1452. But it is noticeable that a Robert de Corry recovered sasine in these properties in 1459 (ibid., 551). This Robert de Corry was granted by the King in 1456 the lands of Dronok (Ex. R., vi., 274), which lands had been in hands of the King in 1452

for non-recovery of sasine (Ex. R., v., 520), having been the property of the late Thomas de Corry, who had also owned a tenement in Annan (ibid). The same Robert de Corry, who must have been a son of Thomas de Corry, had sasine of the Annan tenement in 1467 (Ex. R., ix., 673) It is an open question whether this Robert is not the same as the Robert de Corry who had sasine of Newby in 1464, paying two red roses by way of duplication of albe ferma (Ex. R., vii., 279). If so, the Corrys of Newby cannot have been descended from the Robert Corrie of Newby who married Susanna Carlyle.

Another Corry who may have been a brother of Newby was James de Corry, infeft in the fermes of Woodcockair by Archibald Earl of Douglas (Ex. R., v., 669). He may perhaps be identified with the father of Gilbert de Corry of Torduff and Dailbank.

According to the Aitken MSS., quoting Clapperton, the daughter and heiress of Thomas Corry of Corry married Adam Johnstone at the close of the 15th century, leaving issue :—(1) [James] Johnstone of Corry; (2) Thomas Johnstone of Gretna; (3) Simon Johnstone of Carterton. Aitken cannot be relied on, and the Clapperton MS. has disappeared. Moreover, it appears that the statement has confused the Corries of that Ilk with the Corries of Newby.

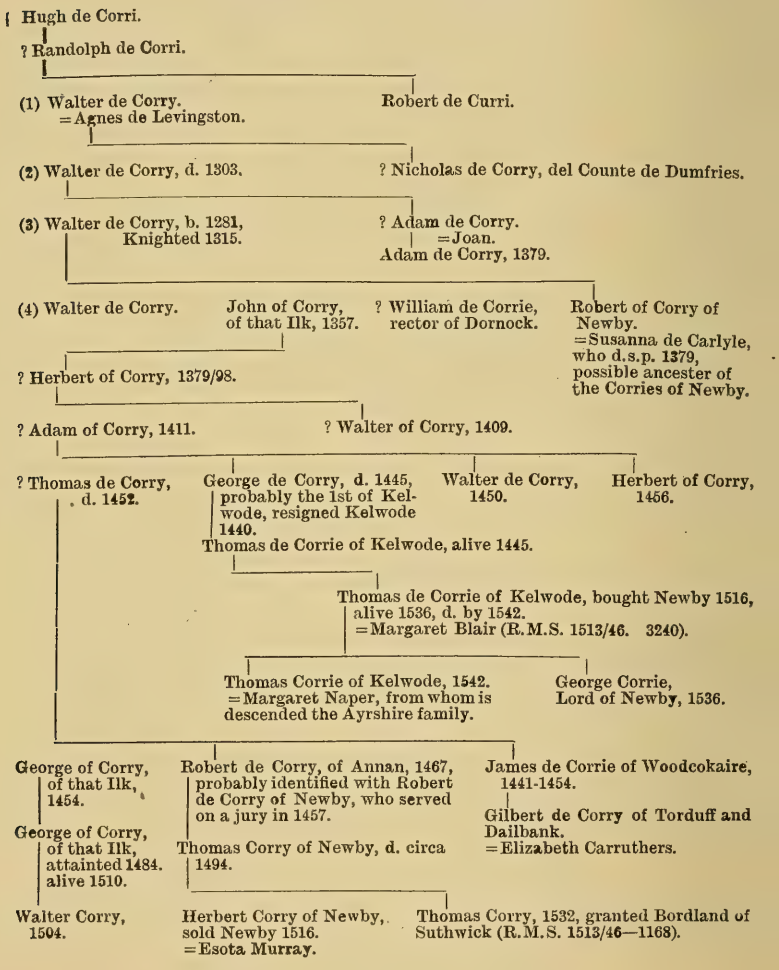
Equally puzzling is the connection between Kelwode and Newby. Briefly the problem is this. The first recorded Corrie of Kelwode is George de Cory of Kelwode, who in 1440 resigned Kelwode and other lands in favour of Thomas de Corry (R.M.S., 1424/1513, 257). Thomas parted with half of Kelwode in 1445 (R.M.S., 1424/1513, 287), retaining Nether Kelwode. In 1516 Thomas Corrie of Kelwode, probably a son of the above, purchased Newby from his cousin, Herbert Corrie of Newby (R.M.S., 1513/46, 145).

This is the only clue to the relationship between the Newby and Kelwode families. As George and Thomas were common names in the family, it is possible that the first Kelwode may be identified with George de Corry dead by 1445, uncle of Robert of Corry of Annan and of Newby (?). Thomas Corrie of Kelwode, the purchaser of Newby, still, however, retained the designation of "of Kelwode," his son

George being described as Lord of Newby in 1536 (R.M.S., 1513/46, 1598). Thomas was dead by 1542 (R.M.S., 1513/46, 2684).

In 1535 Newby was sold to the Johnstones of Gretna (History of Corries, i., 15, and R.M.S., 1513/46, 1598), and in 1546 Nether Kelwode was also sold, and the Corries retired to Ayrshire (R.M.S., 1513/46, 3234). Miss Corrie traces them in that county (History of the Corries).

Pedigree of Corry of Annandale.



"Who were the Philistines?"

By Rev. SAMUEL DUNLOP, B.D., Irongray.

In this lecture, which was not intended by its author for publication in the *Transactions*, the latest theories of the origin of the Philistines were described. The Philistines were regarded as foreigners by the Hebrews and other Semitic races. They came from Caphtor, which the Septuagint translates Cappadocia. More recent investigation traces them to Crete, whose early civilisation has been recently discovered. On the break up of Cretan Empire, roving bands of pirates swarmed in the Levant. From 1300 till 1100 B.C. they threatened the Egyptians of the XIX. Dynasty. Ramases III. defeated them and settled them on the seaboard of Palestine, about the same time as the Hebrews entered that country from the east of Jordan.

25th February, 1916.

Chairman—Provost S. ARNOTT, F.R.H.S.

The Nearer East Problem, considered more especially in its Geographical Aspect.

By JOHN MURRAY, M.A., Dumfries Academy.

The first part of the paper was occupied by a brief account of the geological history of the area as the most easterly of the Mediterranean peninsulas. In the physical geology four structural elements were specified—(a) fold mountains (the Illyrian-Grecian ranges and the Balkans); (b) central crust, block or massif (the Rhodope mountains); (c) transition areas (the Morava-Vardar and the Maritza Couloirs); (d) fractured basins (Adriatic and Ægean). It was fully pointed out that on the inter-relations of these depended the history, economic and political, of the Nearer East. The four elements were then treated in detail, more especially with regard to the various States within whose

frontiers they are to be found, and with whose history they have been more intimately associated. In addition, the effect of the following more or less strictly geographical factors was emphasised—the Karst, the rivers of Bulgaria, the openness of the Peninsula to the influx of races from Eastern Europe, the land-link between Europe and Asia, the two separate climatic divisions.

From a consideration of all the geological and geographical influencing factors it was observed that the outstanding resultant features were an absence of any nucleus for State growth and a welter of conflicting races with their separate and varied racial characteristics.

The historical aspect of the Nearer East problem was then treated. Each State or province was dealt with separately—Serbia: her history, aspirations, economic situation, and thwarted hopes; Macedonia: the storm-centre; Bulgaria: her tendency towards the Ægean; Greece; the South Slav Region: its relations to Hungary's outlet to the sea and to Serbia; Italy and the Adriatic.

Sources of the Galloway Dee.

By Rev. C. H. DICK, B.D., Moffat.

I did not send a telegram to *The Times* when I discovered the truth about the sources of the river Dee, a subject which has been involved in much inaccuracy until the present day, as I had no reason for thinking that my Galloway explorations had attracted the attention of the civilised world, nor did I think that any enterprising journalist would be likely to make a valuable "scoop" by interviewing me on my discoveries and privations at the earliest possible moment. The world, nevertheless, familiar as it is with the confusion and ignorance which prevailed at one time regarding the sources of the Congo, the Niger, and the Nile, is unaware of the darkness in which it has hitherto lain in the matter of the sources of the Dee. Yet this, in its own little way, parallels, if it does not surpass, that which once shrouded those more widely known rivers. Cartographers, guide-book makers, and the Royal Commission on the Ancient

and Historical Monuments and Constructions of Scotland have all gone astray. This is the more remarkable that the exploration of the Dee does not mean so much time, trouble, and expense as a journey into Central Africa.

I begin with the venerable misstatement which continues to hold its place in the eighth edition of the Stewartry guide-book: "The Dry Loch, Round Loch, and Long Loch of the Dungeon are all joined to each other by a small burn." These three little lochs lie in a straight line from north to south along the foot of the hill called The Dungeon and Craignaw, in the heart of the Galloway mountain wilderness, and are within a few minutes' walk of one another. The implication of the above statement is that a stream issues southwards from the Dry Loch and passes through the Round and the Long Loch into the Cooran Lane, a tributary of the river Dee. But a careful scrutiny of the ground brings to light the fact that the watershed between the river Doon system, which flows towards the Firth of Clyde, and the river Dee system, which flows towards the Solway Firth, is between the two more northerly of the lochs, that the stream issuing from the Dry Loch flows northwards and forms a tributary of Loch Doon called the Gala Lane. What has misled previous observers is the fact that a small stream, a mere trickle, enters the Round Loch from the north. This stream, however, does not flow out of the Dry Loch.

The following statement occurs in the "Introduction" to the *Fifth Report and Inventory of Monuments and Constructions in Galloway, Vol. II.—Stewartry of Kirkcudbright*, issued recently by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions of Scotland: "With a long meandering course under different names, and through Loch Ken, the waters of the Dee take their rise in Loch Doon on the Ayrshire border, draining the eastern flank of the Kells range." This is very much as if one were to say that the Clyde rose in Loch Skene, or the Tweed in the Devil's Beef-Tub. It is quite true that certain "waters of the Dee," the Ken and its tributaries, drain the eastern flank of the Kells range; but it should be added that the earlier tributaries drain the western flank also.

Another error in the cartography of this district appears in

the Ordnance Survey map, where the Pulskaig Burn is shown as if flowing out of the north-east corner of Loch Enoch. This burn rises in the steep glen between Loch Enoch and the Gala Lane, and does not come out of the loch. Loch Enoch has only one effluent, the Eglin Lane.

10th March, 1916.

Notes on the Early History of the Parish Church of Dunscore, the Incumbents. and the Parishioners.

By Sir PHILIP J. HAMILTON-GRIERSON.

I.

The old churchyard of Dunscore is familiar to most of the inhabitants of the district; but, so far as I know, no attempt has been made to piece together the early history of the parish church, its incumbents, and its parishioners; and the present paper is an endeavour to supply as far as possible the deficiency by collecting the notices contained in printed and manuscript records and family papers.

In the earlier part of the sixteenth century the lands within the parish of Dunscore seem to have been to a very large extent, at all events, in the possession of the religious houses of Melrose and Holywood. The church and kirklands of Dunscore belonged to the latter. The church was situated at the east end of the parish. With regard to the fabric itself I have no information earlier than the seventeenth century. But there are one or two notices of events which took place within it which may be not altogether without interest.

Of these, the first[1] belongs to the year 1412, and is contained in an instrument dated 14th November of that year, taken upon the marriage of Gilbert Grerson, son and heir of Gilbert Grerson, lord of Lag—the first of the Lag family with regard to whom we have any authentic evidence—and Isabella, one of the three heiresses of Sir Duncan of Kyrkpatrik, knight, lord of Torthorwald. The marriage

was celebrated at the parish church of Dunscore in presence of many nobles and honourable persons of both sexes and of very many of the common people by Master John Herde, rector of the parish church of Kirkpatrick, at the request of the curate (*curatus*) of the said church of Dunscore. Master John, invested in his priestly robe, and accompanied by certain churchmen, came down from the high altar to the doors of the church; and on his asking whether the banns had been duly called, the said Gilbert Grerson answered that he was a parishioner of the church of Troqueer, and produced the certificate of banns under the seal of Patrick, perpetual vicar of Troqueer. And this having been read aloud to the assembled people by the said Sir John, a similar certificate under the seal of Sir John of ffarle, rector of the church of Sanquhar, was produced on behalf of the said Isabella, parishioner there, and read aloud as in the former case. And Sir John adjured those present, once, twice, and thrice, if any of them knew any just cause why this marriage should not be celebrated, to speak under pain of excommunication. And Sir John, after an interval and no objection having been stated, asked the parties themselves who were sworn upon the sacred host and the gospels that if they knew of any just impediment to their marriage, they should state it openly. And on their declaring that there was none the said Sir John joined them in holy matrimony. The witnesses to the document were Sir William of Douglas, lord of Ecfurd; William, abbot of Holywood; the Lady Isabella Stewart, lady of Torthorwald; Sir Thomas of Kyrkpatrik, lord of Closeburn; Edward of Crechtoun, lord of Sanqwar; David Stewart, son and heir of Sir William Stewart of Castilmylk; and John Durand, lord of Betwixt the Waters.

It was this John Durand whose daughter had married Gilbert Grierson, the first laird of Lag; and it was by these two marriages that the lands of Rockell and those of Betwixt the Waters, in the parish of Troqueer, came into the possession of the Lag family.

The next event connected with the church of Dunscore of which we hear is mentioned in a notice[2] in the Register

of the Privy Council, under date 1605, to the effect that John Kirkpatrick of Alisland, "having a seat in the Kirk of Dunscore quhich belonged to him and his predicessors for 8 or 9 score years, and Sir William Griersone of Lag having, with convocation of the ledgies, casten doun the same and built another in plaice thairof for his own use, he is ordained to enter prison in Edinburgh castle; and John, son of John Kirkpatrick of Ilisland, and Matthew Baillie, sister son and servant of the said John, elder, having cuttit doun and hawkt all the forsaid seat in peices,—for quhilk the said John, elder, is ordered to enter prison in the forsaid castle."

If these were the methods of the parishioners in disputing about a pew, it is not wonderful that we should be told forty years later that the church was altogether ruinous, a great part having already fallen down, and the rest "standing upon propis and stoupis," so that the parishioners "daere not for hazard of their life repaire thearto for Godis worship."[3] Even in those stern days this condition of things seens to have been regarded by the ecclesiastical authorities as a sufficient excuse for non-attendance at church. At all events, they recognised the necessity for some action being taken; and in the year 1645 a petition for the transplanting of the church was presented to Parliament by James Grierson of Dalgoner and James Kirko of Sundaywell for themselves, and as having power from the minister and parishioners of Dunscore. The petition narrated the deplorable state of the structure and the incommodious situation of the church, seeing that it was at one end of a parish which was ten miles long. The petition also stated that the Presbytery and Synod of Dumfries had considered these representations, along with a cross petition by Jean Stirling, lady Carse, and Harbert Maxwell, her son, and had resolved that there was a necessity for transplanting the church to the lands of Dalgoner, lying in the middle of the parish, that a new church should be built, and that the heritors, parishioners, and possessors should contribute proportionately to the cost of building the church, manse, and churchyard walls. After hearing the parties,

the lords of Parliament ordained in terms of the prayer of the petition.[4]

It seems not improbable that the opposition of Maxwell of Friar Carse and his mother to the removal of the church was due not altogether to a sense of inconvenience to themselves and the other parishioners at the lower end of the parish, but partly to the fact that they were on the worst possible terms with James Grierson of Dalgoner, who, along with his brother-in-law, James Kirko of Sundaywell, was one of the prime movers in the scheme. They had been defenders in a lawsuit at his instance for the recovery of moneys disbursed on their behalf for the outfitting of the troops of the covenant, which had dragged on for many years;[5] and their feelings became so embittered that Lady Carse is reported at a later date to have suggested to her sons, Herbert and John, "to put two bullets through" Dalgoner, "though they should quit the kingdom."

However this may be, the scheme was adopted. It was found that the cost of building would amount to 3190 merks, in addition to the expense—£419 8s—of obtaining the warrant for transportation, and a petition was presented to Parliament craving that this sum should be levied according to the valuation of the rent of the parish, amounting to 8639 merks, at the rate of £36 16s on every £100 of rent. The matter was remitted by the Estates of Parliament to the Kirk Session of Dunscore "to take the oaths of those who attendit and purchased the said Act for the transplantatioune of the Kirk, and to try what warrand they had for that effect, and accordingly to stent and proportionat the payment thereof according to the rait forsaid."[7]

So the church was built, and not only so, but the objecting parishioners at the lower end of the parish were forced to attend it. Thus we find in the Presbytery records, under date March 6th, 1659, that Maxwell of Friers Carse was delated for forsaking public worship. He admitted that he went to the church of Holywood in winter, owing to the distance of the Dunscore church and the foulness of the ways. But the Presbytery declined to admit the excuse.

In the year 1823 the church was taken down and rebuilt on its present site.[8]

II.

Let us turn now from the church itself to its incumbents. We have very little information as to the early occupants of the cure. A notice belonging to the year 1366 tells us that Sir Thomas de Balcaska obtained and resigned the vicarage of Dunsieur (Dunscore), from which he had received no fruits.[9] The next vicar of whom we hear is Sir William M'Newyne, who was witness to an instrument dated 14th November, 1439.[10] More than one hundred years later—on 26th August, 1548—we find Sir Andrew Hanying, vicar of Dunscore, witness to an instrument of sasine.[10a] Of the next vicar we have more than a mere notice. Sir John Welsh dealt on several occasions with the Kirklands, with the consent of the commendator and convent of the monastery of Holywood. Thus on 12th August, 1561, he granted a charter[11] of part of the glebe and kirklands to Gilbert Grierson in Laich (Laight), in the parish of Tynron, a brother of the laird of Lag; and on 16th December, 1565, he granted a charter[12] of another portion of the lands to Oswald Porter. A memorandum of an instrument[13] dated 2nd December, 1566, narrates that "John Fergussoun of Ile, having the right and kindness of a third part of the vicarage of Dunscore, as at more length contained in a contract between him and Sir John Welche, vicar of Dunscoyr, grants him to have received from Cuthbert Greirsone, tutor of Lag, now feuar of the said Kirklands, on behalf of the said Sir John, £20 for the redemption of his right in the said third part, and the lands to be lawfully redeemed and renounces all right therein." On the 17th of the same month Gilbert Greirsone gave sasine of these lands to John Welche, junior, of Collustoun, Sir John Welche appearing and stating that he had tacks of the said kirklands for his lifetime, and protesting that the sasine given by the said Cuthbert Greirsone should be no hurt to his tacks.[14] Again, in an instrument dated 8th May, 1568, he is mentioned as a witness.[15]

On 10th June, 1573, John Jameson, who, according to

Mr Carlyle Aitken, was the son of a Dunscore laird,[16] was presented to the vicarage.[17] Mr Aitken states that he was previously a chaplain in Dumfries; and certainly numerous instruments are extant to which he was a witness, and in which he is designated chaplain.[18] He executed the office of reader from 1574 to 1585.[19]

The next incumbent was Mr George Harrat, M.A., who was presented on 18th November, 1602, and was subsequently translated to Kirkmaho.[20] He was succeeded by Mr Archibald Gibson, who is mentioned as minister of Dunscore in an instrument[21] dated in 1606, and in an entry in the Register of the Privy Council in 1609.[22] He was deposed before 22nd June of that year, as on that day David Cunynghame, M.A., was presented to the cure.[23] In 1615 George Blak was appointed, and he continued to be minister until he demitted in the year 1640.[24] His wife was Agnes, daughter of Gilbert Grierson of Chappell;[25] and the only memorials of his ministry are supplied by two entries in the Register of the Privy Council, one[26] under date 1617 relating to a complaint by him against Kirkpatrick of Friar Carse and others for non-payment of dues and contributions, and one[27] under date 1631 regarding the scandalous conduct of one of his parishioners. In the latter case the complaint stated that John Moffat in Craigenputtock, a person excommunicated for disobedience to the Kirk, had for several years past behaved himself very insolently and disgracefully towards the complainer, his pastor, for no other cause than the faithful discharge of his calling. On [blank], when the complainer was baptising a child at the kirk of Dunscore, the said John, accompanied by Harbert Hannay, his tenant, came to the kirk," and, while the minister was in the verie actioun of celebrating the sacrament of baptism, he twke the lawer aff its proper place on the pulpit, and to the contempt of the holie actioun despitefullie slang the lawer with the water being in the same in the midds of the kirk." Further, he and the said tenant continually break down the churchyard walls and feed their cattle and sheep within the same, defiling and abusing the churchyard with the dung of their bestial as if it were a fold or byre. The defenders did not appear, and

were put to the horn. Of the next incumbent, Robert Broome, S.M., appointed in 1641, Hew Scott tells us in his *Fasti* that he was deposed on 16th May, 1648, probably for not supporting the popular cause against "The Engagement." He was alive on 30th July, 1654; and his wife, Margaret Steuart, died 15th November, 1664.

We learn from the Presbytery Records that a long vacancy ensued, and that on 19th November, 1651, Mr Robert Archibald was ordained minister of the parish of Dunscore. It appears from the same source that very shortly after his appointment Archibald had to exercise discipline upon the Maxwells of Friar Carse, one of the offences being marriage without proclamation or certificate; and he reported to the Presbytery that John Maxwell, "instead of giving obedience, was waxed most contumacious, and when requested to give satisfactione he misbeheaved himself by cursing and swearing, and called [blank] Kirko of Bogrie a puritane with other vile expressiones." It is interesting to note that the term "Puritan" should have given such offence; and it is to be feared that Maxwell was a "cauld covenanter" at best; more probably a malignant at heart, or even a papist.

We have seen that the church had been erected, but apparently a manse was still awanting; and it is probably in reference to this that Archibald took proceedings in the Courts, as indicated in the following letter[28] addressed by him to "his worthie and much- respected ffriend, James Grierson of Dalgoner"—:

"Worthie and much respected in the Lord,

I receaved yours, for your paines whairin I thank you kyndlie; bussinesis gose very slowlie in this court of delayes notwithstanding of useing al diligence wt Craighall Hoptene[28a] and others. I have only promoved it with great difficultie and beyond my expectatione to be called. My contrair advocats hes gott my processe to answer from whom thair is gottaine noe answer as zet, notwithstanding my constant pressing a dispatch; I fear my bussiness be shifted by this sessione for thir ar soe many befoir me in the roll, & anie their, as is supposed, wil wine in this

sessione. I resolve throu the Lord's grace to let nothing be wanting that is incumbent unto me as deutie in this bussines for promoveing it ather by solicitatione or money, which is most prevalent with the servantis and attendants of this court. I am wayting to presse one my bussines which in my absense would be slighted. Always I resolve to reste the wholl weight one him who ordours al things acording to the counsell of his will, and who knowes my difficulties and the many occasiones of discouradgments I have, who can & wil in due tyme, being made use of, comfort & incouradge against them all. The parosh hes established thrie advocats and ane agent against me, as I am informed. I am sory (bot providence is to be reverenced & submitted unto), that the Gospel is soe lite esteimed by thes to whom I come. It is lyk to force my removel from them, & to ventur upon his hand who, I am confident will cair for and respect me in his sone, as hitherto he hes done. The lord be with you, sir, and comfort you under your many tryels. Uayt you one him, who is the comfort of Israel & will raise you up in due tyme. Tender my respects to yours wt Thomas[29] of Lagane & his wyf & your goodsister with Mungow. As also to Sundawell[30] with his wyfe. Shew him I would have wryttin to him wer not much wrytting procurs moir disliecatione upon my throett wherwith I have [been] verie troubled the ten dayes bygone. Present my servic to Lag wt his lady. Soe I am your affectionat ffriend and weilwyshir in the lord.

Rob. Archibald.

Edr. Jar. 19, 1653.

Present my respect to Mr James with his wyf & young Caitloch[31] when you see them."

Nothing seems to have been done until 24th April, 1655, when the Presbytery appointed some of the members to go to Dunscore and speak to the heritors and Mr George Blake anent the "selling of that Manse." It seems probable that Blake was the retired minister of the parish, and that he had a house for sale which might have served the Presbytery's turn. No arrangement was come to. The Presbytery repeatedly sent members, who preached to the heritors as a

preliminary to the discussion of the manse question, and the heritors promised to set the work of building in hand. But in May, 1657, Archibald was still without a manse, and was forced to live at a great distance from the parish, to the detriment of himself and, no doubt, of his parishioners. The matter was settled in the latter part of the year 1657;[32] but the minister had little enjoyment of the house built for him, for shortly after the Restoration he was extruded from his charge.[33] We hear of him as one of the field preachers in the company of Blackader of Troqueer, Welsh of Irongray, and other "outed" ministers.[34] In the year 1662 he was charged, along with others, with frequent keeping of conventicles and baptising children thereat;[34a] and about 1672 he committed the further illegality of celebrating the marriage of James Maclellan, afterwards of Sundaywell.[34b] In the latter year he was licensed to preach at Mauchline;[34c] and it is he apparently who is mentioned in 1680 as being complained against for preaching at conventicles.[34d] His wife was Elizabeth Key,[35] to whom he was married at Urr on 4th April, 1654;[36] and he died in Edinburgh in 1688, survived by four daughters—Jean, Elizabeth, Margaret, and Marion—and by one son—George,[37] who became a leading physician in Dumfries, and regarding whose "Account of the Curiosities of Dumfries," Mr J. C. R. Macdonald read an interesting paper to the Society in 1901.

Archibald was succeeded by Mr William Burnet, whose official existence is vouched for by discharges granted to the Tutor of Lag for payments of teind from 1664 to 1670,[38] by a reference to him in Dalgoner's memorandum regarding his own imprisonment at Ayr,[39] and by a receipt granted on 3rd June, 1673, by his widow, Sarah Coulsoune.[40]

III.

It may be of interest to note what were the names of the owners of lands in the year 1634, these having been preserved to us in a valuation of the teinds of Dunscore, dated on the 21st March of that year. We find Maxwells of Portract owners of Hill; Herbert Maxwell, elder and younger of Friar Carse and Alliesland; and Edward Maxwell of Over

Stroquhan; Adam Kirko of Bogrie and Skailstoun; and John Kirko, elder and younger of Sundaywell; Grierson of Lag; James Grierson of Dalgoner; Gilbert Grierson of Chappell; Thomas, Robert, and Gilbert Grierson of Over Laggan; Thomas Grierson of Swyre; and other Griersons owning part of Killileogh, Newton, Dempsterton, and Whiteside; Stephen Laurie of Maxwellton, owner of Craigenbey and Blackmark; David Welsh of Nether Craigenputtock; and John Welsh of Collistoun; William and John Edgar of Edgartoun; John Milligan owning part of Newton and William Milligan owning part of Dempsterton; John M'Fadzan owning part of Killyleoch; and William M'Fadzan and John M'Burnie, owning part of Bessiewalla and Nether Laggan respectively; Lindsays, Murrings, Hainings, Moffats, Craiks, Hiddlestons, and Smiths.

Apart from what Wodrow tells us of hardships of Kirko of Sundaywell and Maclellan, who married his niece,[40a] and from Dalgoner's narrative of his imprisonment, we have little information as to the treatment of the Dunscore covenanters after the Restoration. Wodrow tells us that in 1666 the fines imposed upon the families in that parish amounted to £1411 13s 4d.[40b] At a much later date—in 1685—James Sittingtoun, a Dunscore man, was banished, apparently to New Jersey, and died there.[40c]

I have said something in other papers regarding the Griersons and Kirkos who resided in Dunscore, and I may conclude this paper with a short account of one of the oldest families of the district—I mean the Kirkpatricks of Friars' Carse, Alisland, and Braco.

The earliest notice which I have seen of this family is contained in a Papal Commission, dated 13th September, 1465, to confirm certain charters which had been granted by the Abbot and Convent of the monastery of Melros in augmentation of their rental and for certain sums of money paid to them by John Kirkpatrick of Alisland, in favour of the said John and his heirs male of the £4 land of old extent of "frierkers," with the fishings and mill of the same called "Grange milne," and with the astricted multures of the £36 land of like extent, viz. :—"dalgoner, killelego,

Brischevalay, ovir and nethir Bairdwel, dempsterton, ovir and nethir Lagan, ovir and nethir Dunscoir, Ryddymuir, Edgerston, Mulygaston, Kilroy, Ferdninowel at hill. ."[41] We find a bond, dated 5th March, 1499-1500, in favour of John Kirkpatrik of Alysland, and it seems not improbable that he was the John Kirkpatrik designed as the second son of the late Thomas Kirkpatrik of Closbern in an instrument dated 2nd January of the same year.[42] John Kirkpatrik of Alisland is mentioned in 1506-7,[43] and a letter of gift of the ward of certain lands, including Alisland, which pertained to the deceased Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, and of the marriage of his son Thomas, dated 4th August, 1515, in favour of John Kirkpatrick of Alisland, his heirs, executors, and assignees, is preserved in the Register of the Privy Seal.[44] On 22nd June, 1518, a charter was granted by Hendrie Kirkpatrick, son of the late Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, and Hendrie's spouse, Janet Douglas, of certain lands within the barony of Sanquhar, in favour of his brother, John Kirkpatrick of Alisland.[45] John Kirkpatrick of Alisland is mentioned in 1533,[46] in February, 1534-35,[47] along with his son John, and in 1540[48] along with his son Robert; and on 24th February, 1543-44,[49] William, abbot of Crossraguel, and perpetual commendator of the monastery of Holywood ("monasterium Sacri Nemoris") granted a charter of the six merklands of Bracoch in favour of John Kirkpatrick of Allisland and his heirs male, procreated between him and Egidia Grierson, his late spouse. On 31st August, 1555, a charter[50] of the same lands was granted by Thomas, perpetual commendator of the said monastery, in favour of Robert, son and heir male of the late John Kirkpatrik of Alisland, begotten between him and the late Egidia, his spouse. The charter narrates that the considerations for granting were the good and faithful service done to the monastery by the said John Kirkpatrick and Robert his son, the great sums of money paid by the said John for his infeftment, and also the sum of £170 Scots money paid for restoration of the monastery and houses thereof, whereof not the smallest part was almost entirely cast down and overthrown by hostile invasion not only by the old English enemies of the kingdom,

but by the daily attacks of other wicked subjects of the same assisting the English enemies.

Robert had two sons, John and James;[51] and on 7th July, 1602, we find a tack of teind sheaves in favour of John Kirkpatrick of Braco,[52] whose daughter and heiress, Rosina, married James Grierson of Penfillan, the second son of the laird of Barjarg.[53] Apparently Robert was succeeded in Alisland and Friar Carse by Thomas, of whom we have several notices. Mention is made of him and his sister, Lady Ross, on 24th July, 1556,[54] of his brother Roger in 1563-64,[55] of his brother Richard in 1589-90,[56] and of his brothers Thomas and Claud in 1605.[57] He himself is mentioned on 16th January, 1567-68.[58] He married Janet Gordon, whose executor he was on 16th February, 1581-82.[59] His daughter Janet married John Grierson of Bargatton, the marriage contract being dated 3rd November, 1575.[60] He was one of the parties to a marriage contract, dated 18th October, 1583,[61] between Margaret Kirkpatrick, relict of James Gordon of Kirkconnell, and Alexander, son and heir of Roger Gordon of Shirmers, and it may be that he was Margaret's father. He died before the year 1589-90,[62] and was survived by, at all events, two sons, John and Roger, the former of whom was his successor.[63]

The Registers of the Privy Council[64] and of the Great Seal[65] contain numerous notices of John Kirkpatrick, but we know little of him except that his wife was Barbara Stewart, and that he died before 17th December, 1614—the date of the marriage contract between his widow and Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick of Closeburn.[66] He was succeeded by his son John. He married Helen, daughter of Alexander Stewart of Clarie; and his brother William and his sister Sarah are mentioned.[67] He had become largely indebted to John Maxwell of Templand, afterwards of Shawis, and in 1622 he disponed to him the £4 land of Friar Carse and the 40s land of Alisland in security of a sum of 13,750 merks. In 1628 he conveyed these lands of new to Maxwell in security of the old debt and of an additional 5000 merks; and eventually Friar Carse and Alisland became the property of John Maxwell,[68] of whose wife, Jean Stirling, and sons, Herbert

and John, mention has been made in an earlier portion of this paper.

Notes.

[1] Charters in the Register House, Edinburgh, No. 232. The Cartulary of the Abbey of Holm Cultram (see *Transcript of the Cartulary in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland from Harleian MSS.*, 3911, fol. 1096) supplies us with some notices of the Durand family when settled in Scotland in the thirteenth century. Alan, son of Roland, the constable of Scotland, granted a confirmation (undated) of a grant of the lands of Maby and Auchencorkis, made by Robert, son of Simon of Kirkconnel, to Durand, son of Christian. An instrument of perambulation (given at length by Fraser, *Book of Carlaverock*; Edinburgh, 1873, ii., 407), date 17th January, 1289-90, contains the names of Michael, son of Durand, and Walter, his son. We find notices of John Durant in 1282 (Bain, *Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland*, ii., 67) of Walter Durant in 1296 (id. ib., ii., 199, 219), and of John and Walter Durant in 1297 (id. ib., ii., 234). Walter and John Durant are mentioned among those who recovered Dumfries Castle from Robert the Bruce on 3rd March, 1305-6 (id. ib., iv., 389; see pp. 390 and 472); and we hear of Walter Durant in 1335 (id. ib., iii., 208, 210). During the reign of King David II. (1359) the office of the coroner of the sheriffdom of Dumfries was granted to Thomas Durance; and we also find a charter of the lands of Maby in favour of Walter Durhane (Durrand) (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, i., app. ii., Nos. 1459, 1233). In the instrument noted in the text we find that one of the witnesses was John Durand, "dominus inter aquas." John Durand was witness to an instrument dated in the following year (*Calendar of Charters in the Register House*, Edinburgh, No. 233), and in 1419 we have a letter of wodset granted by Johan Durand, lord of Betwixt the Waters (ib., No. 299). In 1425 John Durand is mentioned as armour-bearer to Archibald, Earl of Douglas (*Lay Charter Chest*); and we find a charter of confirmation, dated 25th July, 1427, of the lands of Trauchty in favour of John Durant and his wife Isabella, and, on their decease, their son John (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, ii., No. 431). In 1448 Jhon Durande was one of an assize (Fraser, *Book of Carlaverock*, Edinburgh, 1873, ii., 431), and on 18th July, 1477, a charter of Trarachty was granted by John Durant to George Heris, son and heir apparent of Robert Heris of Kirkpatrick Irongray (see *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, ii., No. 1323). In 1481 John Durand, sheriff depute of Dumfriesshire is mentioned; and John Durande and Thomas Durande were witnesses to an intrument dated 29th May, 1485 (*Lag Charter Chest*). In 1484 John Durande is mentioned as "sergeandus et deputatus" of Robert Crechtoune of Sanquhar, sheriff of Dumfries (Fraser, ib. ii., 441), and in 1489 and 1495 we find John Durane.

notary public, as a witness (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, ii., Nos. 1912, 2277). Mr R. C. Reid, to whom I owe several of these references, supplied me with others, which, however, have no direct relation to the branches of the family in Dumfriesshire and Galloway. It is commonly said that the parish of Kirkpatrick-Durham (Durane) owes its name to the Durands, but I have met with no evidence upon this point.

[2] *Register of the Privy Council*, vii., p. 70.

[3] *Folio Acts*, vi., pt. i., p. 697. Date of the Act, 13th February, 1647.

[4] See last note.

[5] See *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway N.H. and A. Society*, 1913-14, pp. 136-7.

[6] *MS. Register of the Committee of Estates* in Register House, Edinburgh, under dates 3rd and 18th October, 1648. Jean Stirling, Lady Carse, was the daughter of Robert Stirling (Striveling) of Lettir and Joanna Guthrie, his spouse, and was the wife of John Maxwell of Schawis, son of John Maxwell of Templand (see an instrument of sasine dated 27th and recorded 28th August, 1627, in *Dumfries Particular Register of Sasines*), son of Herbert Maxwell of Templand and Sara Kirkpatrick, his spouse See W. Fraser, *The Book of Carlaverock*, ib., i., pp. 597-8, 602.

[7] *Fol. Acts*, vi., pt. ii., pp. 345, 719. Date of the Act, 16th March, 1649.

[8] *The New Statistical Account of Scotland*, Edinburgh, 1845, iv., p. 346.

[9] *Calendar of Entries in the Papal Registers relating to Great Britain and Ireland*, 1342-1419; *Petitions to the Pope*; London, 1896, i., p. 519.

[10] *Calendar of Charters in the Register House*, Edinburgh, No. 305.

[10a] Herbert Anderson's *Protocol Book*, No. 68, in *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway N.H. and A. Society*, 1914-15, p. 211.

[11] See the charter of confirmation, dated 12th November, 1574, in the *Register of the Great Seal*, iv., No. 2321.

[12] *MS. Abbrev. Cartarum Feudifirm. Terrar. Eccles. Treasurer's Office*, fol. 115; see fol. 127; in the Register House, Edinburgh.

[13] Herbert Anderson's *Protocol Book*, No. 24, in *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway N.H. and A. Society*, 1914-15, p. 251.

[14] Ib., Nos., 30 and 32, pp. 252-3.

[15] Ib., No. 81, p. 272.

[16] *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway N.H. and A Society*, 1889-90, p. 119.

[17] Hew Scot, *Fasti Ecclesia Scoticanæ*, Pt. ii., p. 578.

[18] See Herbert Anderson's *Protocol Books*, Nos. 32, 77, in

Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway N.H. and A. Society, 1913-14, pp. 197, 215, and No. 58, ib., 1914-15 ,p. 58. He is called Sir John Johnneston in error in the Register of the Privy Council, iii., p. 760, in a notice belonging to the year 1579.

[19] Hew Scot, *loc. cit.*

[20] Ib., pp. 573, 587.

[21] *Herries Inventory*, No. 330.

[22] viii., p. 245.

[23] Hew Scot, *loc. cit.*

[24] Ib.

[25] See an instrument of sasine dated 14th and recorded 17th April, 1648, in the *Dumfries Particular Register of Sasines*, where the date of her marriage contract is given as 3rd January, 1637. This is obviously wrong, as Agnes is mentioned as Black's wife in an instrument of sasine dated 27th November and recorded 13th December, 1628, in the *General Register of Sasines*.

[26] xi., p. 243.

[27] 2nd Ser., iv., pp. 311-12.

[28] *Dalgoner Charter Chest.*

[28a] Sir John Hope of Craighall and Sir James Hope of Hopetoun were brothers, and were both appointed judges by Cromwell (see J. Brunton and D. Haig, *An Historical Account of the Senators of the College of Justice*; Edinburgh, 1836, pp. 289, 321).

[29] Thomas Grierson of Laggan and Swyre. In 1648 he served on the Committee of War for Dumfriesshire (*MS. Register of the Committee of Estates*, in the Register House, Edinburgh), and in 1649 he was one of the Commissioners of Grievances.

[30] James Kirko of Sundaywell. So far I have not discovered the name of his wife. Dr King Hewison drew my attention to the fact that on the tower of Sundaywell there is inscribed above the entrance "J.K. 1651. S.W." "J.K." undoubtedly stands for James Kirko, and Dr Hewison suggests that "S.W." may represent the initials of his wife, perhaps one of the many Welshes of the district. This seems to be a suggestion much more probable than that of the writer of the Account of the Parish of Dunscore in the Statistical Survey, who reads "S.W." as representing Sundaywell. I take this opportunity of correcting a mistake in A. Crichton's *Memoirs of the Rev. John Blackader*, Edinburgh, 1823, p. 214. Speaking of the year 1678, he says that Blackader "was met by Kirk of Sundaywell. The MS. (*Wodrow Coll.*, xcvii., iv., Advocates' Library) from which Crichton's statement is taken reads:—"A gentleman of Nithsdale called Sund: was come from Galloway to meet him." This was probably Maclellan, as Kirko had died about four years before.

[31] William, the son of Thomas Fergusson of Caitloch. Both father and son are frequently referred to in the statutes of the period (see *Folio Acts*, xii., p. 533 s.v.).

[32] I am indebted to Mr Shirley, our Secretary, for notes of the

proceedings of the Presbytery taken from the *Presbytery Records.*

[33] Hew Scott, *loc. cit.*; R. Wodrow, *History of the Sufferings of the Church of Scotland*, Glasgow, 1829, i., 326.

[34] A. Crichton, *supra cit.*, p. 111 note.

[34a] Wodrow, ii., 4-5.

[34b] Id. ib., ii., 74.

[34c] *Register of the Privy Council*, 3rd Ser., iii., 587.

[34d] Ib., 3rd Ser., vi., 487, 493.

[35] The inscription on her monument in St. Michael's Churchyard states that she died in 1709. Some confusion in the accounts of the Archibald family has arisen from the fact that one of Robert Archibald's daughters, Marion, married a Dr Archibald (see her service as heir to her sister Margaret, dated 1st September, 1705). Dr George Archibald, son of Robert Archibald, married Margaret Lundie (see an instrument of sasine in favour of their daughter Margaret, dated 11th May and recorded 15th June, 1693, in the *Dumfries Particular Register of Sasines*). See W. M'Dowall, *Memorials of St. Michael's: The Old Churchyard of Dumfries*; Edinburgh, 1876.

[36] *Presbytery Records* under date 13th June, 1654.

[37] Hew Scot, *loc. cit.*

[38] *Dalgoner Charter Chest.*

[39] *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway N.H. and A. Society*, 1912-13, p. 140.

[40] *Dalgoner Charter Chest.*

[40a] Wodrow, ii., 78 f.

[40b] Id. ib., ii., 10 note.

[40c] Id. ib., iv., 338.

[41] In the possession of the Society of Scottish Antiquaries.

[42] *XV. Report of the Hist. MSS. Commission*, App. Pt. viii., p. 13.

[43] *Register of the Great Seal*, ii., No. 3034.

[44] i., p. 393.

[45] Notes of documents in the Drumlanrig Charter Room, by Sir William Fraser.

[46] Ib.

[47] *Lag Charter Chest*, No. 91.

[47] Ib., No. 94.

[49] *Dalgoner Charter Chest.*

[50] *XV. Report of the Hist. MSS. Commission*, app. Pt. viii., p. 73.

[51] There are in the *Dalgoner Charter Chest* an instrument of sasine dated in 1570 by Roger Kirkpatrick of Closeburn in favour of Robert and James, and an instrument of obligation dated in June, 1580, to which John Kirkpatrick, younger of Braco, was a witness.

[52] *Dalgoner Charter Chest.*

[53] See *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway N.H. and A. Society*, 1912-13, p. 134.

[54] *Calendar of Charters in the Register House*, Edinburgh, No. 1687.

[55] *Register of the Great Seal*, iv., No. 1492.

[56] *Register of the Privy Council*, iv., p. 407.

[57] Ib., vii., p. 584.

[58] Herbert Anderson, *Protocol Book*, Nos. 60, 61, in *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway N.H. and A. Society*, 1914-15, p. 262.

[59] *MS. Sheriff Court Book of Andrew Cunynghame, Sheriff Depute, Dumfries*, 1577-1583.

[60] *Register of the Great Seal*, iv., No. 2474.

[61] *Register of Deeds*, xxx., fol. 267.

[62] *Calendar of Charters in the Register House*, Edinburgh, No. 3042, ap. No. 3109.

[63] Ib., and *Register of the Privy Council*, iv., p. 407.

[64] vi., pp. 682, 815; vii., pp. 70, 584, 607, 620; viii., p 675; ix., pp. 119, 347, 526; xi., pp. 243, 257.

[65] vi., No. 1662.

[66] *Register of the Great Seal*, vii., No. 2100; see also instrument of sasine dated July and recorded September, 1619, in the *Dumfries Particular Register of Sasines*, in favour of John, his son and successor.

[67] See instrument of sasine dated 28th March and recorded 8th April, 1628, in the *Dumfries Particular Register of Sasines*, in favour of John Maxwell of Schawis.

[68] See the instrument cited in the last note.

Some Local Plants: Their Beauty and Utility.

By JOSEPH SWAN.

The Snowdrop (or Snowbell), *Galanthus nivalis* and *Galanthus plicatus*—the former being the species with which we are familiar; the latter, introduced from the Crimea, having broader plaited leaves and larger bloom—calls the other flowers to awake from their long, restful winter sleep.

Soon, as if by magic, the Windflowers, thriving in exposed parts; the Lesser Celandine, studding grassy banks and sheltered places with glossy yellow star-like flowers; the Daisies, "those pearl'd Arcturi of the earth;" and many others equally pretty, make their appearance; and also *Anthriscus sylvestris* (or Wild Beaked Parsley), that fringes

the woods and waysides with lovely, thrice pinnate, green leaves, and white umbellated flowers.

Throughout Great Britain we find the bright, silvery flowers of the Daisy—botanically known as *Bellis perennis*—of which the Sunflower, the French Marigold, and the Marguerite are examples on a larger scale—springing up on almost every "lawn and grassy plot," but in the extreme north of Europe and in America it is not so common. There is an old Celtic belief that each new-born babe taken from earth becomes a spirit that scatters down on the world it has left some new flower to cheer the bereaved parents. The song of the Virgins of Morven, for instance, to soothe the grief of Malvina, who had lost her infant son, is well known. Since that day the daughters of Morven have consecrated the Daisy to infancy, and called it "the flower of innocence."

The *Draba verna*, or Vernal Whitlow Grass, makes its appearance in February and blooms till May. It may be found on the summit of Nunland Hill, in Lochrutton, and on old walls and dry mossy banks almost anywhere. The leaves, somewhat toothed and hairy, form a rosette, from the centre of which rises a leafless flower-stalk surmounted with panicle of small white flowers.

In the same parish Lords-and-Ladies (*Arum maculatum*), common in most parts of England, has been found. It belongs to a curious tribe of plants extensively cultivated in tropical countries, the tuberous roots of which are used for food. Even the roots of the British species are wholesome and nutritious when properly prepared, though its juice is so intensely acrid that a single drop will cause a burning sensation in the mouth and throat for hours. It is a succulent, herbaceous plant, with large glossy arrow-shaped leaves, which are often spotted with dark purple. A wonderful feature is the spadix. It is club-shaped, of a light pink, dull purple, or rich crimson colour, and may be found wrapped in the young leaf-stalks before the leaves have hardly risen above the ground. The spathe is about twice as long as the spadix.

There is another form of the spadix in the water plant *Acorus calamus*, or Sweet Sedge, growing near Lincluden.

Instead of being rounded at the point, it is sharp or thorn-like in form. This plant is fragrant in the roots, stems, and leaves, and on that account was largely used in abbeys and monasteries by the religious fraternities of olden times. It also supplied the "rushes" with which the floors of well-to-do people were strewn; and it is recorded that Cardinal Wolsey was brought to book on a charge of extravagance for having had his floors covered too frequently with them, as they had to be brought all the way from Norfolk and Suffolk to London.

The Common Soap-wort (*Saponaria officinalis*), which belongs to an extensive and well-marked order of herbaceous plants, may be found in flower during August and September near Holywood Church. It is a robust grower, often reaching four feet in height, has broad, pointed, smooth leaves, and corymbs of handsome pink flowers. It is nearly related to the Greater Stitch-wort (*Stellaria holostea*), which has snow-white petals and leaves of delicate green. Not only was it used for hygienic purposes before the manufacture of soap, but was, and still is, known as an assuager of pain.

The Hop, a beautiful climbing plant, is to be found at the edge of a disused mill-race at Turnfine, in the parish of Troqueer, where formerly there was a meal mill. It constitutes the genus *Humulus,* is specially described as *Humulus lupulus,* and was introduced into our country from Flanders in 1524. As its name implies, it grows only in rich soil, and is cultivated for the sake of its catkins, which contain a bitter principle that imparts an agreeable flavour to beer. There is a very large number of varieties made use of for this purpose, each variety thriving best on its own particular soil. The Hop belongs to the same natural order as the Common Nettle and Pellitory-of-the-Wall—the last-mentioned being well known in rural districts for its medicinal properties. It is a hypnotic, but has not the injurious effects of the opium plant. The flowers are numerous and of a greenish colour, and its fruit is strobile, like that of the pines.

A short distance westward from Turnfine is a marsh where the water was formerly stored to drive the mill. In

this swamp may be found the Bog Bean or Marsh Trefoil (*Menyanthes trifoliata*). In summer it sends up trefoil leaves, the leaflets being not unlike those of the cultivated Bean, and its inflorescence consists of a raceme of beautiful pink and white flowers, which suggest the cultivated Hyacinth.

The Basket Willow, or Common Osier (*Salix viminalis*), also grows in this vicinity. The ancient Britons were expert basket-makers, and their baskets were sold to the Romans, who admired them and paid a large price for them.

On the north side of Cargenbridge the Willow-leaved Spirea can be seen in great strength from the roadway. It is a shrubby species, four or five feet high. The leaves are oblong, serrated at the edges, and smooth; the flowers rose-coloured and in dense racemes. It belongs to the same genus as the Sloe, Bird Cherry, and Meadow Sweet or Queen of the Meadows.

Beneath a large typical Scotch fir on the roadside, west of the railway bridge at Doweel, there is a handsome showy plant, which is at its best from May to August. It grows to three feet in height, and has branched leafy stems well furnished with leaves. Its flowers are in drooping cymes, the colours vary on different plants—pink, white, purple, and yellow. Its ordinary name is Common Comfrey, and the botanical name *Symphytum officinale*. Formerly it was held in great repute as a healer of wounds.

Meum athamanticum, or Spignel, a very highly aromatic plant, belonging to the umbelliferous tribe, grows by the roadside near Amisfield. Its leaflets are divided into many thread-like segments. The aroma from its herbage in spring is communicated to the milk and butter of cows grazing on it.

Water Hemlock (*Œnanthe crocata*), a perennial, also of this tribe, flourishes at the southern end of Dalscone Merse. Instances are numerous of cows having been poisoned by eating the roots. The Common Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), a graceful plant with finely cut foliage and white flowers, may frequently be met with in out-of-the-way places. It also is poisonous, but is easily distinguished from the

other non-poisonous umbelliferous plants by its finely divided leaves, slender growth, and perfectly smooth stem, spotted with red. It is a biennial, and flowers in June and July.

Weather and Other Notes taken at Jardington during 1915.

By Mr J. RUTHERFORD.

JANUARY.

New-Year's Day came in with a nice mild morning and a rather cold south-east wind. The distant hills were white. A very red and purple sky preceded sunrise. The barometer fell very sharply from 29.5 in. on the previous day to 28.9 in. at 9 a.m. A cold, dull, cheerless, stormy day followed. At 8 p.m. the barometer stood at 28.6 in., which was the lowest reading of the year. On the 2nd there was thunder, with hail showers. Broken, mild, showery weather, mixed up with some frost at night, continued till the 20th, when Queensberry and the distant hills had a covering of snow. No rain fell from this date till the last day of the month. During this time there was a continued mild frost; most of the mornings were rather foggy and there was white frost on the grass. There were sleet and snow showers on the 31st. This left a trace of snow here, but higher lands had a fair covering. The wind for the month was principally from the north, north-west, and south-west, except on four days, when it was from the south-east.

The temperature of the month was about normal when compared with the preceding months of January during the present series of mild winters that we have recently had. There were no heavy gales of wind and no heavy floods. Snowdrop came into bloom on the 19th, two days later than 1914.

FEBRUARY.

The last day of January left the higher lands and distant hills covered with snow. The southerly morning sky of the 1st was a peculiar yellowish purple colour, which I have fre-

quently noticed to precede stormy weather. There was a heavy white frost on the grass, with a north-west wind. This changed to south-west at mid-day. A very blowy and wet afternoon followed. This rainfall, combined with the melted snow from the higher lands, caused a fairly high flood on the Cluden, being the highest we have had for several years. The weather during the remainder of the month was wet, stormy, and unsettled. On the 17th there was a pretty sharp thunderstorm, with heavy hail showers and a very depressing kind of gloomy darkness that I don't remember having ever noticed before (to the same extent) during a thunderstorm. On the mornings of the 9th, 10th, 22nd, and 28th there was a slight covering of snow on the ground, which mostly went away on the afternoons of each day. There was no very hard frost and no very high wind. The wind was principally from the south-west and south-east. The rainfall, 8.29 inches, was the highest recorded here for February during the last twenty-two years. The musical note of the song thrush first heard on the 5th. Hazel came into bloom on the 20th, seven days later than 1914.

March.

On the morning of the 1st there was about one inch of snow on the ground, which went away during the day. During the first week there was cold, stormy, wet weather, followed by ten days of very fine March weather, with the birds singing all round on most mornings. On the morning of the 18th the outlook was very wintry, followed (I believe) by the stormiest day of the year. There was quite a blizzard of intense cold, driving wind, and drifting snow. About three inches fell here, but on higher lands there was a heavy fall, and many roads were blocked. Taking the weather of the month as a whole, it was fine, dry, and cold, with a good deal of sunshine and light changeable winds. The wind till the 23rd was westerly; from this till the end principally north-east. There was no cold, withering east wind. The rainfall was low—1.39 inches, as compared with 5.14 inches in 1914. This allowed the land to be got ready and be in good condition for sowing. On the evening of the 12th a

short time before sunset, which was at 6.10, the northern sky from near the horizon to the zenith was covered with clouds of a broken, undulatory character, intersected by several horizontal bands, which reminded me very strikingly of the belts of Jupiter. After sunset those clouds gradually took on a peculiar deep yellow colour, which in a short time gradually changed to a beautiful dark purple, which in turn gradually disappeared, and the clouds resumed their normal colour. This, I believe, was the most remarkable and interesting sunset I ever remember seeing. Four very fine warm days followed. Corn sowing began on the 29th. Heard the first nesting note of the peewit on the 7th. Yellow crocus came into bloom on the 2nd; coltsfoot on the 14th; dog mercury on the 16th; lesser periwinkle on the 18th; lesser celandine on the 21st; dandelion on the 25th; wood anemone on the 25th; daffodil on the 26th; primrose on an exposed situation on the 27th; sweet violet on the 28th.

APRIL.

The weather during this month was rather cold and barren till the 22nd. The wind was mostly from a north or westerly direction. The fields had a green appearance, but there was very little grass. From this date till the end of the month there was a cold north and north-east wind, which took away the green from the fields and left them grey and faded. During the most of the month the barometer was over 30 inches. Although the weather was unfavourable for vegetable growth, it was just what was required for sowing oats, planting potatoes, and preparing the land for the turnip crop. The daily mean temperature was one degree higher than 1914. Flowers were a few days later in coming into bloom. Flowering currant came into bloom on the 10th; strawberry-leaved cinquefoil on the 18th; dog violet on the 20th; Jargonelle pear on the 22nd; sloe on the 23rd; cuckoo flower on the 30th. First bumble bee seen on the 9th. First small white butterfly (*Pieris Raphæ*) seen on the 22nd. First swallow seen on the 24th. Glad to see my happy little friend again with its cheery welcome twitter on the housetop. Sand martin first seen on the 24th.

MAY.

The merry month came in without her dewy distillation, which has been so long gathered and used as a wash to give bloom and freshness to the smiling maidens' faces in the early morning hours. The want of May dew was compensated for by a mild fall of genial refreshing rain, accompanied by a south-west wind, which was very welcome after the barren east wind during the end of April. This only continued for the day. Three barren days followed, with a cold, withering easterly wind, with sun during the day and frost at night. Three fine growing warm days followed. On the 8th a cold biting easterly wind set in, which was mostly in that direction till the 20th. The following eight days were very fine and warm. The last three were cold and backward. The rainfall was low, viz., 1.43 inches, and all vegetation wanted rain. On the 12th and 28th Queensberry and the distant Moffat hills were covered with snow. Blenheim orange apple come into bloom on the 1st; garden strawberry on the 13th chestnut on the 19th; hawthorn on the 22nd. First wasp seen gathering food on the 22nd. The leaves of the oak were out some little time before the ash, which is rather unusual. There was sunshine on seventeen days at 9 a.m. The wind was principally from an easterly direction. There was very little growth, and stock put on grass parks had nothing like a full bite. Early potatoes were frosted rather badly on the 13th. Turnip sowing began on the 5th. Turnips sown about the 6th or 7th (that came under my observation) had to be sown over again; whilst those sown about the 11th came away at once and did well.

JUNE.

This month came in with a cloudy morning and a cold north-west barren wind. This was followed by fine warm dry summer weather generally throughout the month. There was a low rainfall. This following a dry May, all crops suffered. By the middle of the month knowes were getting brown and many springs getting dry. This determined the character of the hay crop. On heavy soils in good heart

there were fairly heavy crops; but on lighter land the crop was very light, especially where it had not been spring "hained." I am reminded of the old proverb:—"A dripping June pits a' things in tune." The wind was westerly till the 12th, and principally from an easterly direction till near the end. But the wind during the month was so light that it was often difficult to decide in which direction it was moving. There was a good deal of thunder during the last four days, with very little rain. On the night of the 18th potatoes were a little touched by frost. Hoeing turnips on the 18th that were sown on the 11th of May. Corn began ragging on the 23rd. Cutting ryegrass on the 29th. Gathered the first dish of ripe strawberries on the 30th, seven days earlier than in 1914. Ox eye daisy came into bloom on the 5th; wild rose on the 13th; harebell on the 23rd.

JULY.

There was a little rain fell during the first six days, which freshened vegetation a little, but was merely a surface watering. From the 14th till the end of the month there was a good deal of mild, changeable, showery weather, with not much sunshine. This came too late for the hay and corn crops; but grass, turnips, and potatoes made rapid progress. Hay that was cut in the beginning of the month was got in fine condition. From the 14th haymaking was a tedious job. The green was mostly bleached out of it before it was made, and the quality very much deteriorated. The wind was mostly from the west. There was thunder on several days. Knapweed came into bloom on the 14th, two days later than 1914.

AUGUST.

The weather of this month was close, unsettled, and thundery till the 16th, with a south-west wind—very bad for haymaking. On the 3rd half-an-inch of rain and hail fell in ten minutes, accompanied with loud thunder. From this till the end of the month there was fine dry harvest weather, with a north and north-west wind. Corn cutting began on the 14th, eleven days later than 1914, and on one or two

farms in this locality the crop was all in the stack by the end of the month. Wasps and wasp nests were plentiful.

September.

The weather of September was very fine and dry, with sunshine above the normal and heavy dews at night. Corn cutting went on without hindrance, but when in the stook there was a lack of sharp breezes required for making it ready to go into a stack. There was a large shortage of bulk in this locality. It was sad to see the wee stooks, a good way apart in some fields, which looked very promising in the spring, being a great loss to the farmer after all his anxiety, labour, and expense, and very discouraging to see his crop so small through the drought. There was an abundant crop of apples and plums; and although the wasps were very numerous during the summer, I have seen them more destructive on the fruit in the autumn. But the blackbirds were very bad. On hearing the least disturbing noise they just gave a "cluck," and in an instant cunningly vanished out of sight beneath a neighbouring bush or hedge. Any scaring device that is erected in the orchard or on the trees is of little service, as they very soon make its acquaintance, and may again be seen enjoying their feast beside it in a day or so. The rainfall of the month was very low, .61 inches, being the lowest recorded here for September since 1895. The wind was light and variable. There was sunshine at 9 a.m. on twenty days. Thunder was heard on the 13th and 24th.

October.

On the morning of the 1st there was white frost and bright sun. The first ten days were warm, sunny, and dry—ideal weather for lifting potatoes, which turned out a good crop with little disease. Turnips, grass, and springs were in need of rain. On the 11th .85 inches of rain fell, but it was merely a surface watering. The ground a few inches below remained very hard and dry. On the 24th 1.20 inches fell, which caused a fair flood on the Cluden, but the deep

springs were not touched. It came too late to do any good to turnips and grass. Last swallow seen on the 1st.

NOVEMBER.

The first seven days were fairly mild, when blue gentian, garden strawberries, and some other flowers were noted in bloom. On the morning of the 10th Queensberry and the distant Moffat hills were covered with snow, and there was a perceptible snow feeling in the air. On the 15th two and a half inches of snow fell here. This covering did not go away till the 28th. During that time, and till the end of the month, the weather was very cold and wintry, with the wind mostly from north and north-west; but the velocity was so low that it was difficult morning and evening to determine which way it was coming. From the 18th till the 23rd the barometer was very high, the reading on the 21st being 30.7 inches. The rainfall was very low, 2.49 inches. One-third of this amount fell on the 8th. The temperature of the month was very low. The daily mean minimum was 27.23 deg., as compared with 36.43 deg. in 1914. I note from a Glasgow record that the daily mean minimum in Glasgow was about 8 degrees below the mean of the last 47 years, and the coldest November in 48 years. Frost was registered in the shade on 23 days, on the ground on 26 days, as compared with 11 and 14 in 1914. The lowest temperature was 10 deg. in the shade and 9 deg. on the ground. This severe winter weather, coming so early and so unexpected, suspended all farm work. In this locality almost none of the turnip crop had been stored. It is almost certain that through being frozen and partially thawed several times a great quantity will be lost, which is unfortunate and regrettable, as the fodder supply is below the average and a good deal has been used during this early winter weather. Springs still continue to be very low, and the water supply short in many places.

DECEMBER.

The weather conditions of this month may be summed up in a few words—very changeable and wintry, frost, thaw,

and rain, with a little snow thrown in here and there, succeeded each other in fairly regular order. It closed with the last day of the year being very wet and stormy, and quite a gale with heavy rain during the night. Although the weather of the month was changeable and wintry, it was in a sense mild when compared with many Decembers we have seen, as there was no continued hard frost, no high wind except on the last night, no heavy floods, and very little snow.

We have now had a series of mild winters, and that of 1914-1915 has added another to the number. It is now a number of years since we had settled severe weather throughout the winter season, when we had snow and frost almost continually from November till March, and when the ice broke up in the spring it came crashing down the rivers in such force as to do a lot of damage to bridges, trees, and fences along their banks. We have had no such experience for some years. We are told by the "wise preacher" that "The thing that hath been, it is *that* which shall be;" so that we need not be surprised if a series of severe winters should follow. I read some little time ago that it had been determined that the radiation from the sun is not constant. This may account for the variation in our weather conditions extending over considerable periods. The Creator of the Heavens and the Earth and all that they contain hath made everything beautiful in its season. Whether it glows and sparkles beneath the summer sun, or lies dull and faded under the clouded winter sky, it is always full of charm to those who have eyes to see its beauties and ears to hear the music of its many voices.

Meteorological Observations taken at Jardington, near Dumfries, in 1915.

Lat. 55° 4′ N.; Long. 3° 36′ W.; Elevation, between 50 and 70 feet above sea level.

	SELF. R. THERMOMETERS. IN SCREEN, 4 FEET ABOVE GRASS.											BAROMETER.		RAINFALL.		
	MAXIMUM.			MINIMUM.												
	Highest in the Month.	Lowest in the Month.	Daily Mean.	Highest in the Month.	Lowest in the Month.	Daily Meam.	Daily Mean Temperature of the Month.	Mean of the daily monthly temperature during the last 5 years	Number of Days at or below 32 deg. in the shade.	Number of Days at or below 32 deg. on the grass.	Lowest Temperature on the Grass.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 Hours.	Number of Days with ·01 or more recorded.
	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Deg.	Days.	Days.	Deg.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	
Jan.	53	34	42·87	47	23	32 25	37·56	37·82	18	27	20	30·45	28·6	3·15	·77	18
Feb.	52	41	44·53	42	24	32·18	38·35	39·87	16	24	21	30·15	29·1	8·49	1·47	19
Mar.	57	42	49·25	47	24	33·74	41·49	41·96	13	16	22	30·4	29·6	1·39	·36	10
April	70	48	54·86	48	30	37·9	46·38	47·10	6	7	27	30·5	29·2	2·73	·41	19
May	82	48	61·80	50	27	40·0	50·90	52·61	5	7	25	30·54	29·9	1·42	·55	8
June	81	59	69·37	55	35	47·0	58·18	56·53	..	..	30	30·4	29·85	·74	·29	9
July	74	62	66·77	56	40	48·90	57·83	61·21	..	..	38	30·2	29·6	3·30	·42	22
Aug.	75	62	67·84	57	35	50·93	59·38	59·60	..	..	34	30·3	29·0	2·45	·63	16
Sept.	75	54	64·63	58	27	43·93	54·28	53·90	3	7	26	30·4	29·5	0·61	·33	6
Oct.	64	44	55·26	51	30	39·74	47·50	48·36	6	9	28	30·5	29·45	3·21	1·20	13
Nov.	53	34	43·13	38	10	27·23	35·18	41·21	23	26	9	30·7	29·05	2·49	·80	7
Dec.	52	32	43·04	43	20	32·67	38·15	39·72	14	22	20	30·45	28·8	6·71	1·05	25
														36·69		172

36.69 in. of Rain is about 2·53 in. below the Mean recorded here during the last 22 years.

Rainfall Records for the South-Western Counties for the Year 1915.

Compiled by Mr ANDREW WATT, Secretary to the Scottish Meteorological Society.

DUMFRIES	H'ght Ft.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year.
Langholm, Burnfoot	541	3·12	9·27	2·06	2·90	1·75	2·70	5·05	3·52	1·40	2·03	3·37	7·27	44·44
,, Ewes School	445	3·72	9·04	2·30	3·80	1·85	2·55	5·05	3·52	1·85	2·17	2·50	8·76	47·11
,, Drove Road	270	3·14	9·46	3·02	3·06	2·15	2·56	5·22	2·37	1·54	2·18	2·60	8·83	46·13
Canonbie, Byreburnfoot	160	3·13	6·37	2·63	2·50	·75	1·50	4·25	1·50	·87	1·63	1·50	7·50	34·13
,, Irvine House	200	3·46	6·75	2·45	2·84	1·70	1·83	5·32	2·40	1·06	1·88	2·10	7·13	38·92
Rigg	65	3·30	5·50	1·78	2·52	1·81	·81	3·72	2·80	1·32	2·38	2·62	6·84	35·40
Eskdalemuir Observatory	799	3·70	8·27	2·37	3·54	1·38	1·57	5·04	2·74	1·89	2·36	3·82	7·91	44·59
Moffat, Auchen Castle	500	3·82	7·38	2·57	2·91	1·42	1·74	4·83	4·91	1·50	2·98	3·03	7·83	44·92
,, Craigielands	331	4·13	9·39	2·40	2·93	1·34	1·52	4·99	2·45	1·62	2·48	3·12	8·68	45·05
Beattock, Kinnelhead	820	4·71	8·84	2·16	3·69	1·56	1·17	4·75	2·76	1·82	3·14	3·35	8·95	46·90
Lockerbie, Castle Milk	199	3·33	7·77	1·83	2·42	1·51	·75	5·33	3·32	1·27	2·12	1·93	7·13	38·71
Lochmaben, Esthwaite	166	3·30	8·15	1·79	2·62	1·81	·80	3·72	2·80	1·34	2·38	2·62	6·94	38·27
Dalton, Kirkwood	245	3·72	8·43	2·34	2·91	1·98	·90	5·57	2·66	1·57	3·70	3·17	8·13	45·08
,, Schoolhouse	175	3·09	6·43	2·07	2·39	2·15	·93	5·95	2·78	1·23	2·89	1·79	7·05	38·75
Ecclefechan, Knockhill	170	3·25	7·05	1·75	2·30	1·61	·73	5·26	2·56	1·18	2·29	1·52	5·96	35·46
,, Burnfoot	160	3·08	6·97	1·92	2·36	1·80	1·11	5·64	2·12	1·34	2·41	1·45	7·92	38·12
Hoddom Castle	150	3·40	7·06	1·45	2·43	1·39	·83	5·45	2·24	1·10	2·51	1·72	6·84	36·42
Dalton, Whitecroft	240	3·39	7·64	1·61	2·65	1·66	·86	5·50	2·57	1·20	3·06	1·77	7·13	39·04
Comlongon Castle	67	2·78	6·18	1·25	2·18	1·06	·55	4·58	1·75	·95	3·04	1·60	6·48	32·30
Dumfries, Crichton Inst.	155	2·35	7·54	1·08	2·31	1·46	·60	2·75	2·15	1·01	3·14	2·03	6·40	32·82
Drumlanrig Castle	191	4·26	9·12	2·04	2·88	1·37	1·76	4·93	3·65	1·54	3·19	2·58	7·53	44·85
Moniaive, Glencrosh	350	4·59	11·36	2·22	3·56	1·35	1·96	5·00	2·44	1·70	4·50	3·73	7·83	50·24
,, Maxwelton House ..	400	4·21	11·12	1·63	3·05	1·67	1·48	4·69	2·26	1·51	4·68	3·38	8·84	48·52
,, Jarbruck	350	5·08	12·68	1·86	3·55	1·77	1·37	5·20	3·21	1·60	5·52	4·10	9·79	55·73

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.	H'ght Ft.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year.
Jardington	70	3·15	8·49	1·39	2·73	1·42	·74	3·30	2·45	·61	3·21	2·49	6·71	36·69
Lincluden House	60	3·17	8·88	1·67	2·76	1·50	1·18	3·67	2·56	·96	3·14	2·67	6·89	39·05
Cargen	80	3·53	11·10	1·90	3·40	1·59	·65	3·94	2·70	1·18	4·03	2·86	8·77	45·65
Lochrutton	273	3·67	9·48	1·51	3·25	1·45	·99	4·34	3·78	1·37	3·85	2·95	7·70	44·34
Auchencairn, Torr	50	4·50	7·64	2·01	3·41	1·48	1·21	4·51	3·35	1·54	3·98	3·06	9·26	45·95
Glenlair	250	4·40	11 26	2·05	3·56	1·35	1·36	3·59	2·74	1·35	5·37	3·12	9·15	49·30
Dalbeattie, Little Richorn	54	3·25	7·65	1·63	2·92	1·63	·85	4·98	3·03	1·27	5·18	3·23	8·90	44·52
Monybuie	580	4·19	11·17	1·51	3·68	1·66	1 61	3·87	2·12	1·68	5·21	..	..	..
Kirkcudbright, Balmae	150	3·53	5·11	2·27	2·25	1·25	·57	3·17	2·96	1·94	3·06	2·00	6·81	34·92
Gatehouse, Cally	120	4·75	6·81	2·29	3·70	1·18	1 09	4·27	2·90	1·44	5·02	3·22	8·02	44·69
Creetown, Cassencary	50	3·86	7·52	1·95	3·36	1·43	1·35	3·30	3·16	·81	5 07	2·72	7·09	41·62
Palnure, Bargaly	..	5·97	9·43	2·72	3·67	1·07	1·08	3·85	2·67	1·34	4·73	3·67	10·14	50·34
Dalry, Glendarroch	192	4·70	11·66	1·98	3·92	1·46	1·13	5·12	3·15	1·35	5·06	3·24	10·31	53·08
Carsphairn, Shiel	850	7·89	13·30	2·78	4·73	1·55	1·34	6·33	3·50	2·47	6·01	4·93	10 45	65·28
,, Knockgray	641	5·56	11·91	2·24	3·75	1 71	1·06	4·48	3·56	2·38	4·79	3·06	8·88	53·38
Glenhead of Trool	320	10·00	13·00	3·60	4·60	1·63	1·40	5·00	2·15	1·35	5·30	4·60	9·00	61·63
WIGTOWN.														
Loch Ryan Lighthouse	46	2·95	6.26	2·48	2·90	1·22	·99	3·26	1·44	·95	4·68	1·97	6·05	35·15
Corsewall ,, ...	112	4 46	5·57	2·23	1·55	2·02	·84	2·38	1·92	·77	4·81	2·22	7·50	36·27
Mull of Galloway Lighthouse ..	327	1·55	4·15	1·24	1·83	1·43	·75	2·80	1·06	·68	3·45	1·53	6·47	26·94
Galloway House	20	3·49	4·44	1·76	1·85	1·40	·90	3·30	·93	·59	2·84	1·86	6·61	29·97
Whithorn	207	4·49	4·90	2·12	3·32	1 23	1·00	3·09	2·07	·93	3·81	3 19	7·48	37·63
,, Cutroach	120	3·70	5·49	2·03	2·90	1·38	·99	3·36	1·60	1·16	3·73	2·45	7·69	36·48
Logan House	80	1·96	4·21	1·56	2·45	1·24	1·07	3·57	1·67	·48	4·58	1·82	6·62	31·23
Ardwell House	65	2·68	5·60	2·31	2·80	1·45	·96	3·79	1·45	·53	4·77	1·51	7·08	34·93
Glenluce, Crews	218	3·13	5·26	2 08	3·14	1·44	·86	3 76	2·38	·71	4·82	2·03	7·32	36·93

24th March, 1916.

The Brus Inscription at Annan.

By Mr GEORGE NEILSON, LL.D.

Many considerations make it a congenial task to recognise a certain unusual and institutional importance in the burgh of Annan, and there is the less need to apologise for returning to the theme in this Society. Chance opportunities, combining with the happy offices of friendship and archæology in unison, have made it possible to bring back into the sphere of antiquarian investigation one of the most interesting inscriptions in stone extant in Great Britain. It is a long chapter of connection in history of which this inscription in question is the key, for directly and indirectly it goes back to the age of the Bruces as lords of Annandale before Robert I. became King of Scotland, and it is most probably related to some late-thirteenth century building upon or near the great mote-castle-site of the town of Annan when as yet the full honours of a royal burgh can hardly have belonged to the place. But Annan had its share of feudal honour when it was, as the chronicler of Lanercost calls it, the "little capital of the district" (*capitanea illius patriae villula*), having the original manorial hall or strong house of the Brus lords, and as such possessing the importance attaching to the place of legal and administrative jurisdiction over the wide domain of the lords of Strath Annan or Annandale.

A few intermittent scraps of record in the twelfth and thirteenth century contain some meagre intimations about the residence of these Brus lords at Annan. Its chief historical episode—apart from the incident to be next noticed—is that the *castellum de Anant*, presumably the fortified house on the Mote, was reckoned[1] among the strongholds of the

1 Benedictus Abbas (Rolls Series), i., 47-49, Palgrave's *Documents and Records*, i., 77.

adherents of King William the Lyon against the King of England, Henry II., in 1173.

Chiefly interesting is the page of the Lanercost chronicle in which with many touches of intimate knowledge about the Brus family and about their dwelling-place the chronicler tells the strange story of St. Malachi's curse, towards the middle of the twelfth century, fulminated equally upon the family and the town, or, as the chronicler calls it, the city (*civitatem*) of Annan itself. This legend, as singular in itself as in a certain corroboration of it, tells how by the piety of a lord of Annandale a century and a quarter after St. Malachi's day the malediction pronounced upon the remote ancestral Brus in the time of David I. was appeased and extinguished by a grant at Clairvaux in France (the shrine of St. Bernard as well as of St. Malachi), whereby an annual rent was conferred on the famous French monastery to maintain for ever three silver lamps over the grave or shrine of St Malachi. So said the chronicler. And the cartulary of Clairvaux was found actually to contain the charter by which about 1273, on his return from the crusade with Edward I., Robert de Brus made for the purpose stated the grant which the chronicler alleged (*Scots Lore*, p. 127).

The Brus whom St. Malachi cursed was either the builder or the son of the builder of the Mote of Annan, and the Brus who appeased the offended saint was the competitor for the crown of Scotland, and the father of that Earl of Carrick and lord of Annandale whose son, the younger earl and lord, was to become King Robert the Bruce.

The earliest known notice of the Brus inscribed stone at Annan occurs in the diary of Bishop Richard Pococke, who passed through Dumfriesshire in 1760, and whose Scottish journey is well described in his *Tours in Scotland* (Scottish History Society, 1887). The passage relative to the inscription occurs in his account of Annan, at page 35 :—

"But the most beautifull situation is the site of the house of Robert Bruce, grandfather to Robert Bruce, King of Scotland. It is on an eminence which commands a fine view of the river both up and down. It was an oblong square defended by a deep fossee to the south and by a

double fossee to the north, on which side is the keep. . . . On a stone taken from the old building is the following inscription, which I copied :—

ROBERT DE BRVS
COUNTE D CA
RRIK ET SEITYU
R DU VAL DE ANANN
AN° 1300."

From the terms of the description it is evident that Pococke placed the site of the castle at the Mote, or Moat, on the left or east bank of the river, and that what he refers to as the keep was the high, steep, and rounded Mote, mont, or mound itself. While there are plainly several errors in the transcription of the lettering, they are all of a kind to suggest nevertheless that the bishop's fidelity to what he saw was commendable.

Not greatly divergent from Pococke's account is that of Pennant, who visited Annan during his archæological journey in 1772. The quotation which follows is taken from his *Tour in Scotland*, vol. II., p. 96 :—

" The Bruces were once Lords of this place, as appears by a stone at present in a wall of a gentleman's garden taken from the ruins of the castle, and thus inscribed :—ROBERT DE BRUS COUNTE DE CARRICK ET SENTEUR DU VAL DE ANNAND. 1300."

A feature of Pennant's reading of the stone is the word " senteur." As will appear from the sequel, there are good excuses for stumbling, if there is stumbling, whether in the eighteenth or the twentieth century, as to the precise transliteration of this word.

The old *Statistical Account*, edited by Sir John Sinclair, frequently found of high value for antiquarian facts, unfortunately fails us completely in those respects in the case of Annan. The account of Annan (vol. xix., 1797) was written " By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries," but its meagre note on page 452 carries practically no definite information :— " The Bruces built here a stately castle, of which the ruins still remain."

In 1824 there appeared the *Caledonia* of George Chalmers, and in vol. iii., p. 139, was inserted a fairly elaborate note, partly drawn from Pennant, although probably with supplementary information from observation, whether of the amazingly industrious Chalmers himself or of some of his many correspondents.

"A stone which was taken from the ruins of the castle of Annan and built into the wall of a genlteman's garden has on it this inscription :—'ROBERT DE BRUS COUNTE DE CARRICK ET SENIEUR DU VAL DE ANNAN. 1300.' Pennant's *Tour*, iii., 84.—From this inscription it is probable that the castle of Annan was rebuilt in 1300 A.D. A small garrison was usually kept in the castle of Annan as a border fort. *Border Laws*, 134, *Acta Parl.*, ii., 140.—This castle was demolished in 1570 by an English army under the Earl of Sussex. *Hist. King James VI.*, 99; Bannatyne's *Journal*, 36.—It was afterwards rebuilt and continued a border fortification till the union of the crowns. *Acta Parl.*, iv., 171.—In 1609 the King granted the castle of Annan to the burgh and parish for the purpose of using it as a church, or for using the materials of it in building a church. *Ib.*, 441.—The castle was afterwards pulled down, and no part now remains but the fosses that surrounded it."

There is good reason to believe that the Border fort or tower of Annan referred to in the sixteenth century notices was not at the Mote site, but stood further south, near what is now the Old Churchyard, and near to or upon the site of the present Town Hall. This seems clear from the military sketch made towards 1563, excellently reproduced by Mr R. Bruce Armstrong in his *History of Liddesdale*, as well as from the facts gathered in the present writer's paper on "Old Annan," twenty years ago, in the Society's proceedings.

In the New Statistical Account, vol. iv., p. 525, in the account of Annan, written in 1837 by the Rev. James Monilaws, there is the following description :—

"On an angled elevation on the east bank of the river, and west side of the town, was situated Annan Castle, the ruins of which, with the exception of a small part of the wall

built into the town-house, finally disappeared nearly forty years ago. A stone, taken from the ruins, and built into the wall of a small vintage-house in a garden in the town, bears this inscription :—'ROBERT DE BRUS COUNTE DE CARRICK ET SENIOUR DE VAL DE ANNAND. 1300.' Separated from the ancient site of the castle, now forming the Old Churchyard by a sort of ravine, there is an artificial mound of considerable extent, designated the moat, supposed, like other places of the same name, to have been raised by the Saxons as a spot on which to assemble for the administration of justice."

From this it would appear that Mr Monilaws supposed the stone to have been taken from a building not at the Mote, but in the vicinity of the present Town Hall.

Having frequently seen references to the stone, it was natural to me to expect that in Annan itself some memory of it would survive, and I remember asking the late Mr William J. Cuthbertson, editor and proprietor of the *Annandale Observer*, whether he knew where the stone was. He told me that he had himself often inquired, but that all trace of its whereabouts was lost.

The matter standing thus, the missing stone was for me merely a regret that there was no opportunity to examine the inscription so as to test the statements of Pococke and Pennant, and those who have followed them, in briefly noticing the existence of the stone. It had ceased to inspire curiosity, when, most unexpectedly, good fortune sent what direct enquiry had entirely failed to reveal. A letter came to me from my friend, Professor W. R. Halliday, B.Litt. He had become known to me during his sojourn in Glasgow as lecturer on Greek Archæology in Glasgow University, prior to his appointment as Professor of Ancient History in the University of Liverpool. The letter was to the following effect :—

Glenthorne, Brendon, N. Devon,
July 21, 1914.

DEAR NEILSON,

"I wonder if the enclosed is of any interest to you Scotch antiquaries. I know nothing about mediæval stuff

myself, and possibly it may be a forgery. The two sorts of N η and V U strike an outsider as fishy, and isn't counte a funny form? And was Bruce de Brus? Anyway, the alleged history of the stone is as follows:—It is now here, and the property of my aunt, Miss Halliday. This place was built in the early part of the nineteenth century by my grandfather's uncle, the Rev. Walter Stevenson Halliday. He possessed also the family property of Whinny Rig, in Annandale, which on his death passed to a cousin, and then, thanks to the re-marriage of a widow, out of the family. I have always been told that he brought this stone from Annan.

"My great-aunt fished up the other day a notebook, in which is an abstract taken from the *Annan Observer* of January 17th, 1861, of a lecture delivered by Mr W. D. Bruce of Schaw Park, Clackmannan, entitled 'The Ancient Lords of Annandale and the Last Campaigns of the last of them, King Robert Bruce.' In the course of his prelection, which is pretty feeble stuff, 'he had no doubt that the old inscription, "Robert de Brus, Comiti de Carrick, et Senior du Vale de Annan, . . . 1300," which was on a stone in an old house in Butts Street, but now unfortunately removed, was in commemoration of the first charter.' Someone has underlined this in red, evidently supposing it to allude to this stone. I can't help thinking that Mr Bruce's inscription is curious Latinity too! But it is *a priori* probable, I think, that the stone to which he referred is the same one as ours. Whether it is genuine is another matter. Garmon Jones, my assistant to be, and I went down in a fit of energy and copied our stone. The soft sandstone is in parts hopelessly disfigured. 'Robert de Brus Counte de Ca . . .' is quite certain, and 'Ca/rrik' seems probable. The 'i' and a bit of the 'k' are there all right, and there is ample room for two 'r's.' 'Et sent' is quite certain; then come I/, which looks like a bad shot at a letter on the part of the mason, followed by a certain U. The beginning of the next line is hopelessly defaced. There is something like the tail of an R, but very uncertain. D is uncertain, but very probable. V A certain. The next letter has a down stroke, and then there is a big hole in the

surface. The next letters up to N are conjectural. The parts inked are what we thought fixed the letters. The N at the end of the line is certain. The numerals are cut much less deeply than the letters. Isn't it suspicious not to find Roman numerals? Anyway here is the inscription, in case it amuses you to look at it."

"Yours sincerely,

W. R. HALLIDAY."

Dull as the adventures of the antiquary are supposed by a cold external world to be, it is perhaps lawful for one of the tribe to own that there have been occasions when the sensations have bordered on excitement. It was indeed a rare pleasure thus to see the long lost inscription sweep once more into antiquary ken, and to know that it was no vanished myth, but a palpable lapidary fact, completely and critically vouched for by a young but already experienced and distinguished archæologist.

Needless to report, the letter was warmly acknowledged, and further enquiries were in due course gratified by further particulars, including excellent photographs of the recovered relic. Especially interesting was a letter containing a close and detailed description of the stone, the inscription, and the character and condition of the lettering.

July 26, 1914.

DEAR NEILSON,

"Many thanks. I'm glad to hear that this is a find. . . I'm afraid that the stone is a long way from Glasgow at present, and greatly as we should enjoy it, it is improbable that you'll find the opportunity to inspect it. But as regards the text, I don't think it matters. The crux is one which only the study can supply. Where the stone is gone, the surface is absolutely gone. The letters that are extant are certain and clear. I have drawn out the inscription life-size fairly carefully, and as regards scale fairly successfully—a long job: i.e., if you lay the drawing I am sending you on top of the stone the letters will coincide. The paper, too, I have cut roughly to the dimensions of the stone's surface, though it is perhaps a fraction of an inch too long at the top, the uncut edge.

"The letters are deeply cut; the crosses of the ɛ 's vary. In some cases they are much lighter than in others, and in some, where the surface is worn, only perceptible to touch. The top two lines are considerably better and more careful work, as well as better preserved. Evidently the man flagged like others of his confreres, both ancient and modern.

'It is possible I think that the + at the beginning and the numerals at the end were added by another hand. They are not cut deep and broad with a chisel, but rather scraped out as it were. On the other hand, it is possible that the mason may have used for them the same tool with which he crossed his ɛ 's and made his ornamental tails to the letters. Both the O's seem to have a central dot.

"The first two lines are quite clear—+ Robert . de . Brus —(a curious "s," isn't it?)—Counte (the stop is lost in the big hole in the stone) de . Ca. The beginning of the next line is hopeless. The surface of the stone is simply not there. Under the U there is the first certain chisel mark, a deep down stroke. Of course the stone on the right of it has broken away to it. It may well be I. The marks which follow are very uncertain. Possibly there are the remains of a down stroke, but it would be difficult to say that they were certainly the relics of chisel marks. There is here, as it were, a layer off the surface of the stone.

"But for practical purposes I imagine that there can be little doubt that the reading was C A [R R] I [K], if that is a possible spelling. E T . presents no difficulties. Then you have S E N T V U, and room probably for one, at a pinch for two letters, on the next line. I feel that one is almost certain, rather than two. Well, there is no doubt at all about S E N T. I tried hard to think it might be an O with some sort of a contraction mark, but it is certainly a T. There follows I/, the bottom ending in a break of the stone. It seems to me that the mason was trying to repeat his V of B R V S, and made a mess of it. Possibly he gave it up, and then did a more ordinary U instead. (One notices that the U is cramped up rather, and nearer the edge of the stone. Is this because he had to squash in the substitute for his

blunder?) So you have Sentvu, or Sentu. The concluding letter (or letters if there are two) of the word could not be recovered by anyone. There is a mark near the edge, but I don't think it is a chisel mark. The surface is simply destroyed. Even the D is only the bottom layer of the letter, but it is quite certain; so is the U. (The line crossing the stone here represents a fracture.) D U . V A L is certain, though I shouldn't like to dogmatise on the original shape of the L. It is now as you see it. From the stop to the N at the end of the line the surface has gone, but D E . seems to me certain. The stop is there, (I've put it a little too high), and you will see the fragments of the letters, about which I am fairly confident. After the stop there is an indeterminate mark, which looks like a chisel mark, but nothing can be got from the stone until you come to N. As, however, there is room for two letters [A N]N A N D seems to me the certain restoration.

"I'd looked carelessly before, and had thought that A N D of the bottom line had something to do with A N N O. It hasn't; it is A N D, and I think there is a stop after it. Jones thought he was certain of a cross before the numerals. It is just possible, but seems to me very dubious. The fracture runs right across it, and on both pieces the stone has broken away to the fracture.

+ROBERT . DE . BRUS .
COUNTE . DE . CA
[RR] I [K] . ET . SENTU
— DU . VAL . DE . [AN]N
AND . 1300

"I don't think that you can do more from the stone than this. First two lines certain; line 3, two letters missing, probable I (letter missing), et sentvu quite certain; 4th, one letter (possibly, but improbably, two) missing, du . val . de . (difficult to read, but pretty certain), two letters missing, n.

"Of course, on any questions you like to ask in detail I will consult the stone for you. The surface is in parts rather soft; it is a soft sandstone. It might be possible to take a

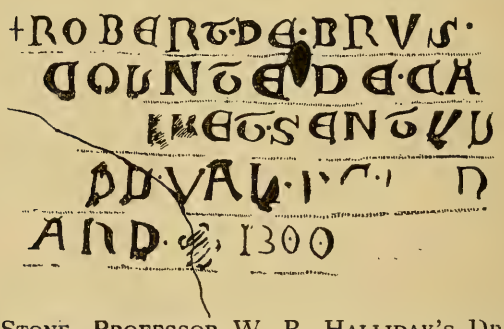
squeeze with blotting paper of any particular part of it. But where the letters are there at all, they are pretty clear; and where they are not, there is no surface at all. I don't think that there is much that can be got. I've felt it over pretty carefully. I'll see about photographing. . . . .

"I can find no documents relating to its purchase. Family tradition has it that the Rev. Walter Stevenson Halliday bought it from a house in Annan which was pulled down. He was one of those regular Autolycuses of things ancient or foreign of the early nineteenth century. Evidently, too, the Scott boom provided him with his favourite kind of literature. Probably, like a more distinguished Autolycus, Lord Elgin, he did save his treasure trove from destruction by getting hold of it. I'm afraid, though, that I can't pretend that he treated it well. It was apparently left in the open exposed to the weather. (In the same way he bought a Roman mosaic floor and stuck it up in the open at a romantic spot in the woods, with the result that nothing is left of it now.) I think it must have been my grandmother, who was I believe a considerable antiquary in her own heraldic line, who rescued it. Ever since I can remember, it has lived in a little deserted bath-house. It has a sound roof over it, and is not likely to suffer further damage.

"You will now have had as much of my handwriting to decipher as you will care about, and I must turn from Bruce and a very pleasant excursus.

"Yours,

W. R. HALLIDAY."



BRUS STONE, PROFESSOR W. R. HALLIDAY'S DRAWING.

The lettering is of the form known as uncial, used in many sepulchral monuments and inscriptions of the late thirteenth century; for example, in the epitaph of Eleanor, Queen of Edward I. The transliteration presents few difficulties, except that of the last word of the third line. The fourth letter may be read as G, distinguished by its straight line top from a T, which has a curving head. Various methods of interpreting the full word have been offered, but it seems necessary to assume that error of some kind has crept into the execution by the stonecutter of the inscription. The present writer has come to the conclusion that the simplest explanation is to suppose that by a mistake of the stonecutter the N and Y have somehow exchanged places, and that what should have read SEYGNUR[2] has been rendered SENGYUR. An alternative is that the Y has been cut instead of an N, and that the intended form was SENGNUR. A better rectification of the situation may perhaps be expected and invited from the skill of mediæval epigraphists.

A second question appears to be of less difficulty and of less moment. The date 1300 raises too sharply the issue of authenticity to admit of much hesitation. (1) It is no real part of the inscription, in which a date was not inherent. (2) It is obviously quite different in style; it is not like the deep-cut original lettering at all—the letters are broad and deeply chiselled out, and are uniformly accordant with the style of the period, while the Arabic numerals[3] are slightly cut, thin, and shallow. (3) The period 1300 may not be impossible for an inscription in Arabic numerals on stone, but

[2] The spelling Seingnur, etc., of date thirteenth century with the intrusive "n" will be found, e.g., in *Acts Parl. Scot.*, ed. Thomson, i., pp. 76-77, plate of Berne MS.; also in Palgrave's *Historical Documents, Scotland*, i., pp. 198, 199, date 1297.

[3] These "so-called Arabic numerals" (for an Indian origin of them is now a current hypothesis) have been closely and critically examined in Mr G. F. Hill's *Development of Arabic Numerals in Europe* (1915; Oxford: Clarendon Press). They are first found in MSS. of the tenth century, but are not well known until the thirteenth. In monuments their occurrence is very rare indeed until the fifteenth, the earliest probably being from Wells Cathedral, exhibited on Plate xvii. of Mr Hill's book.

in any case that date is far too early and exceptional to be accepted. No such inscription of so early a date appears to be known in Great Britain. Moreover, the grounds of condemnation apply not merely to the use of these numerals, but also to the form of the numeral 3 itself in the inscription. A universal characteristic of the Arabic figure 3 until long after 1300 was that, instead of the under lobe being the perfect counterpart of the upper lobe, as is very nearly the case on this stone, the under lobe is elongated, while the upper one is a semi-circular curve. The typical early figure is ȝ, not 3.

The inference which seems to be almost an irreducible necessity is that the date 1300 is probably not original, but an addition to the original inscription. This may seem at first sight an admission perilous to the greater question of the authenticity of the original inscription proper, but to the present investigator at anyrate that view of the matter does not present any constraining force. It is easy to suppose that a sixteenth or seventeenth century chisel has by the addition of the date not only indicated an intelligent appreciation of the original inscription; but the wielder of the chisel has by the very form of his figures betrayed his own date, while leaving unimpaired the verity of the original inscription and its faithfulness to its own period. The possible major contention against the stone that it is in its entirety, a forgery, a production three or four centuries later than the day of the last Bruce lord of Annandale, must answer the points:—(1) that the lettering of the inscription, equally in alphabet, diction, and arrangement, appears to be in essential harmony with the epigraphy of the late thirteenth century; (2) that its tenor conforms to historical facts; and (3) that it is as difficult to imagine a motive for such a forgery as it is to postulate the necessary skill on the part of the forger. It would have required a forger of genius to design an inscription so correctly adjusted to historical fact and surroundings, and at the same time to execute the design in so generally complete a correspondence with historical epigraphy.

Thus taking as a necessary, if not proved, presumption

the genuine character of this interesting relic, the investigator's last duty is to place it precisely in its period. This is within narrow compass. The particular lord commemorated can only have been Robert de Brus, the elder Earl of Carrick, son of the competitor for the Scottish throne, or his son Robert, the younger Earl of Carrick, afterwards King Robert I. of Scotland. Robert de Brus (IV.), lord of Annandale, the unsuccessful competitor, died in 1295. His son, Robert de Brus (V.), married, circa 1273, Marjory, Countess of Carrick, but his full right and title as both Lord of Annandale and Earl of Carrick dated only from his father's death. He himself died in 1304. His son, the future King, took the style of Lord of Annandale and Earl of Carrick for only two years, his earldom, of course, merging in 1306 in the loftier honour of the Scottish Crown. Specific instances may be adduced :—

In 1291, in a letter relative to the claim to the throne of Scotland, Robert de Brus (IV.) styled himself[4] "Robert de Brus, Seignr du Val d Anaunt."

His son, Robert de Brus (V.), styled himself[5] "Comes de Carrik' et Dominus Vallis Anandiæ." He was sometimes distinguished, for instance, in the Ragman Roll[6] in 1296 as "le veil," from his son (the future King), who was designated "le jeovene."

In 1304, on 11th June, the young Brus is referred to in a notarial deed[7] under the style of "Dominus Robertus de Brus Comes de Carryk' ac Dominus Vallis Anandie." Apparently his common style prior to his father's death had been "Counte de Carrik" only;[8] immediately after his father's death he appears to have used the double style,[9] as his father had done before him.

[4] Palgrave's *Historical Documents, Scotland*, i., 137.

[5] His seal is described by Mr William Brown in his *Brus Cenotaph at Guisborough* (1894), p. 30.

[6] Bain's *Calendar*, ii., p. 197.

[7] Palgrave's *Historical Documents, Scotland*, i., 323.

[8] *Ib.*, 197, 199.

[9] Bain's *Calendar*, ii., 1493, 1495.

Hence it is evident that as there were only two earls of Carrick and lords of Annandale the limits of time for this inscription to be applicable were between 1295 and 1306—nine available years for the father, and two for the son. A merely arithmetical calculation thus gives a slightly greater probability in favour of the former (1295-1304) rather than the latter (1304-1306).

With what object the inscription was made it is not possible to dogmatise. The stone seems to be complete, so that there is no room for suspecting that the inscription was an epitaph. Besides, Robert de Brus (V.) was buried at Holmcoltram. Most probably it may have been a slab built into some manor-house or "castle" of the Bruces on or near the Mote—possibly a new residence constructed during the time of the future King's father.

It is for epigraphists and antiquaries to discuss the question, and the decision may not be simple. Meanwhile this Society may well congratulate the burgh of Annan on the re-discovery of this heirloom of history, and may be grateful to Professor Halliday for his keen and unselfish interest in it. His near relationship to Miss Halliday, the lady who owns and treasures this unique relic of ancient Annan, is an additional and happy guarantee that the stone is being preserved with more than ordinary appreciation and archæological care.

A SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE.

In view of the importance of the questions discussed, I thought it expedient to consult Mr George F. Hill, and sent on the photograph to him. He was kind enough to give the matter his attention, and wrote as follows :—

Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum, London, W.C.,
April 6, 1916.

MY DEAR SIR,

"I am afraid that my opinion on the epigraphic question is not worth the paper it is written on. But I am consulting Mr C. R. Peers, the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, whose opinion will be really worth having. Meanwhile I have the impression that the date is doubtful.

It is not so much the forms, which are not hopelessly wrong, as the lack of character in their cutting. There seems to be more character in the inscription itself. The mixture of 'Gothic' and Latin forms would be all right for the period, if I may judge by the coins, of which I have more experience than of lapidary inscriptions. I should not hesitate to take ꝛ as g, and the word SEN ꝺ YU[R] as Seigneur. There is a tendency, at least in the fifteenth century, to put the 'n' before as well as after the 'g' in this nasal sound. Thus on the medal of Charles the Bold you get the form AVIENGNE. Ducange, *Glossarium*, Tom., 7, p. 299, gives SEINGNIE=*seing* on paraphe; and I dare say that in Godefroy you would find other instances. From this it would be an easy stage for a careless cutter to drop the second N. I do not feel happy about the form ᵾ for U. It may be early, but on medals, etc., off-hand I can only remember it on sixteenth century pseudo-gothic pieces.

"Yours faithfully,

G. F. Hill."

Subsequently he forwarded to me a letter which he had received from Mr Peers:—

"Department of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings.

H.M. Office of Works,

Storey's Gate, Westminster, S.W.,

7th April, 1916.

My Dear George,

"I am sure the numerals are wrong; they are just scratched on. It seems to me that the line beneath them is of the same type, scratched, and not chisel-cut like the lines under the rest of the inscription; but that is only to be decided by seeing the stone itself. The inscription as a whole is obviously all right, and of about the date to which it aspires. The U's are curious, but I think quite possible; there is just the same mixture of U and V on the ION LUMBARD inscription in Christ Church, Dublin, of which I have a squeeze at your disposal. The ꝺ (that's all I can make out) seems to differ from the ꝺ's, in having a definitely straight upper stroke, and must be, I think, accepted as a G. ꝺ would soon get into the required form,

and the lettering generally is pretty rough and unskilful. I don't think one need postulate a development from the Saxon

s .

"Yours ever,

C. R. PEERS."

With the quotation of these valuable technical opinions my postscript closes. There is left to me only the welcome duty of expressing my warmest thanks to Professor Halliday, Mr Hill, and Mr Peers.

The Hedgehog.

By Sir HERBERT MAXWELL, Bart.

I feel grateful to the Lyon King of Arms who, in the sixteenth century, prescribed that the branch of the clan to which I belong should bear as "difference" a hurcheon or hedgehog in the centre of the shield, to denote maternal descent from the family of Herries.* Grateful—inasmuch as in the short list of British mammals there is none more interesting to the naturalist than the hedgehog, not only for its remarkable defensive armature, but because the type has persisted almost unaltered throughout a vast geological period, involving changes of climate and alternation of temperature which sufficed to bring to a close gigantic races such as the Diplodoccus, Iguanodon, woolly elephant, and many others. In his monumental work on British mammals, Mr J. G. Millais refers to an animal resembling a hedgehog whereof the jawbone and teeth were found in Eocene beds.† It is true that Sir Richard Owen inclined to consider these remains as showing closer affinity with the mole than with the hedgehog; but both these animals are Insectivores, probably owning common descent from a primitive marsupial ancestry. Anyhow the creature reported on by Owen lived in an age when the London clay was being formed and the climate of England was tropical. Any small

* The paternal coat of Herries is argent, three hurcheons (hedgehogs), sable; a piece of canting heraldry—Herries, *quasi* hérisson.

† That is, beds of the period following after the Chalk.

mammal which existed in that world would have to pick its way among the feet of such monsters as Palæotherium and Dinoceras, not to mention such less bulky associates as tapirs and three-toed (Perissodactyl) horses. Altered conditions of land and climate swept most of these mighty types from the face of the earth; but the humble insectivores underwent little change. The mole sought safety by adopting a subterranean life; the hedgehog remained above ground and developed defensive spines; both devices proved perfectly satisfactory; so that, arriving at Pliocene times, when the English crag was formed, we find remains of hedgehogs indistinguishable from those of the present day. They had as companions various kinds of pachyderms—elephant, mastodon, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, besides the formidable sabre-toothed lion and our contemporary beavers and otters.

But these mighty forms of life were doomed to extinction. The climate slowly, but steadily, grew colder; by the time the English crag and forest beds had been formed it had become of arctic severity, and the greater part of what is now the British Isles was cased in a mantle of ice some hundreds of feet thick. Over the whole of Northern Europe every recognisable form of life, animal and vegetable, was extinguished. Thousands of years had to pass—thousands of feet of solid rock had to be ground into glacial clay—the land had to be ploughed into something like its present contours before it could be re-stocked. The hardy little hedgehog must have been among the earliest mammalian colonists, and now occupies a territory extending from the Mediterranean seaboard to the Norwegian dales; though, like Julius Agricola and Edward I., it has not yet accomplished the conquest of the Scottish Highlands. It is spreading there, however, having lately been reported as a newcomer in Argyll. In 1892 Mr Harvie Brown wrote: "As far as we know, the hedgehog is not as yet found in a wild state in Sutherland, although it has been introduced on several occasions."* It is difficult to account for its presence in Ireland otherwise than by human agency.

At first sight one would scarcely pronounce the hedgehog

* *Fauna of the Moray Basin*, i., 155.

to be well equipped in the struggle for life. In locomotion it can take rank only as a crawler; flight from pursuit is out of the question; the animal's only resource in the presence of danger is passive resistance. Curling itself into a ball, it offers a spiny superficies to all-comers. Yet, considering how many and majestic are the forms of life which have vanished or become greatly modified through cosmical changes, the persistence of the humble hedgehog in its primitive shape from a period probably long anterior to the era of man, must be accepted as proof of the practical excellence of such an unpromising design. Moreover, that the race manages to hold its own in our island without any sensible diminution in numbers, is the more remarkable because of its relentless persecution by man. Justly or unjustly, it has earned the worst of characters as an egg-stealer and chicken-assassin. Some such accusation was inevitable, seeing that every creature of furtive habit and crepuscular activity stands condemned by the average gamekeeper; but it is very difficult to get at the truth. Mr J. G. Millais has gone very systematically and sympathetically into the question, and it is disappointing to find that he cannot clear the hedgehog's reputation. "It's food," he sums up, "consists chiefly of insects, slugs, and worms; but it will also eat frogs, young rats, mice, lizards, birds' eggs, and young birds."* But on page 120 he quotes a writer in the *Field* as follows:

"Hedgehogs eat raw meat voraciously, and would unquestionably kill chicks in a coop. . . . The common accusation that they suck eggs is erroneous, for they cannot crack them. A rat chisels through an egg-shell with his lower incisor teeth; a hedgehog can only crunch, and the gape of his jaws will not admit an egg as large as a sparrow's. I once shut up an unhappy hedgehog for three days, with no food or water except a raw egg. It made no attempt to open it. I then gave an egg to a white rat, who had certainly never seen one before in his life. He went for it in a moment, and rolled it across the room to his box, pushing it in front of him like a brewer's man trundling a barrel. . . . I think there is no question who is the egg-stealer."

* *British Mammals*, i., 11.

Unluckily this witness has chosen to remain anonymous, signing himself B.D., so one cannot cross-examine him.

It is a matter which would be worth deciding, as any observant person might do one way or other once for all. Personally, I care not whether hedgehogs eat eggs or not: if people would but apply themselves to exterminating rats, foulest of four-footed vermin, there never would be any lack of eggs for omelettes. I am incapable of any but the kindliest feelings towards the hedgehog; nor can I look upon its delicately moulded, swart visage, its beady eyes, and tidy black nose and mittens without equal affection for the individual and respect for the race of *Erinaceus*, representing a pedigree beside which human aristocracy dwindles into mushrooms.

But I wish they would reciprocate my feelings towards them a little more frankly. Fain would I have a numerous band of them in the flower garden as a check upon slugs and young mice; but although that garden is effectively fenced with wire netting against rabbits, never have I succeeded in keeping hedgehogs therein for more than a few nights. It is a mystery how they escape. If they burrowed under the wire, one would see the hole. One evening a hedgehog, nearly full-grown, was brought to me. After winning, as I thought, its confidence by an offering of bread and milk (a diet of which these animals are so fond that they will take it from the hand immediately after they are captured) the animal was placed for the night in a new dog kennel with concrete floor and iron rails, closed with sheet iron for eighteen inches from the ground level. The door was locked; but before morning the captive had decamped, the only possible means of exit being an aperture exactly one inch and a half wide at the hinge of the iron door.

Hedgehogs can swim well, though none has been actually seen to take to the water of its own free will. I once found five half-grown ones drowned in a wayside well, into which they had fallen.

It is notable that, although there are fourteen species of *Erinaceus* in Europe, Asia, and Africa, the genus has no representative either on the American Continent nor in Australasia.

Electro-Culture: With Brief Account of Some Experiments conducted at Lincluden Mains.

By Miss E. C. DUDGEON.

Though the stimulation of plant growth by means of electricity has only of recent years become a subject of scientific investigation, the idea is by no means a new one. So far back as the year 1746 we read of an Edinburgh surgeon named Mowbray* "who electrified two myrtle trees," with the result that they blossomed sooner than other plants that had not been similarly treated. Apparently the success he had caused a Frenchman, Abbé Nollet,† to take up the subject. His experiments consisted in suspending iron plates upon steel chains hanging from a dry silk cord. Upon these insulated plates he kept seeds and plants, the plates being charged with electricity by means of an influence machine requiring the combined strength of three men to drive it. He found that some species of seeds electrified in this manner germinated much more rapidly than those which had not been given the electric treatment.

In the year 1783 another French Abbé, Berthelon‡ by name, added to the interest of this subject by suggesting that atmospheric electricity was an important factor in all plant growth. To prove his theory he constructed an apparatus consisting of a number of metallic points raised in the air, connected by a flexible conductor to a moveable iron bar, which terminated in a series of discharge points just over the plants he wished to electrify. Atmospheric electricity was collected by the upper end of the apparatus and discharged over the plants from the lower end, the whole structure being insulated by suitable supports. From experiments on these lines Berthelon came to the conclusion that the plants were improved in appearance, accompanied by increased fertility.

* See *The History of Electricity*, by Rev. J. Priestley, 1776.

† *Recherches sur les causes particulières des phénomènes électriques*, Frerer Guerin, Paris.

‡ *De l'électricité des végétaux*, Dido Jeune, Paris, 1783.

Considerable work has been done in France at the Institute for Agricultural Chemistry by Professor Berthelot, also in Russia and other parts of Europe.

In the year 1846 a prize of thirty guineas was offered by the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland for "An Improved Report on the Application of Galvanism or Electricity to Cultivation," but it was not till the year 1885 that experiments of an elaborate nature were commenced, in which year Professor Lemström, a Swedish scientist, began to make investigations on more scientific and practical lines than had hitherto been attempted.

Professor Lemström travelled extensively in the Polar regions, and during his travels there was immensely struck by the development of vegetation, in spite of the conditions of temperature and soil being so unfavourable; though the plants did not come to maturity any earlier than those in lower altitudes, the scent and colour of the flowers, freshness of the green leaves, and luxuriant growth was most striking to the most casual observer. Knowing the peculiar electrical conditions which prevail in high altitudes, he came to the conclusion that this marked development in vegetation was due to small electric currents passing between the atmosphere and the earth. Upon his return to Finland he began a series of experiments which extended over several years, producing variable results, and though his investigations yielded much evidence that was contradictory, he showed conclusively that a definite increase in weight of crop might be gained from electrical treatment.

Following the death of Professor Lemström in 1903, the work of investigation was taken up by Mr J. E. Newman, of Bitton, near Bristol, with the assistance of Sir Oliver Lodge, and it was under their supervision and direction that large trials of a practical nature on agricultural crops were first made in this country.

In this brief paper we will not go into a detailed account of these trials, which were of a most interesting and instructive nature, but confine ourselves to those carried on in this district at Lincluden Mains, the experimental ground

being familiar to many present here, and for that reason will presumably inspire a general local interest.

With the aid of a small grant from the Development Fund, through the Board of Agriculture, experiments were started at Lincluden Mains in the year 1912, and have been continued on the same ground from that date up to the present, the work conducted being under the close supervision of scientific experts appointed by the Board.

Before pursuing the subject further, it might be as well to give a brief description of the apparatus employed and the ground over which it was used.

The field treated has a number of ordinary telegraph poles surmounted by powerful insulators, round which is fixed a strong wire about No. 14 gauge; from this wire, which is arranged in the form of a square, very fine wires are stretched at intervals of 25 feet from each other, forming a network over the plot to be subjected to the electric treatment, while a similar plot without any network is marked off for purposes of comparison.

To charge the network an apparatus is used which was designed for the purpose by Sir Oliver Lodge; it consists of a large induction coil with sparkgaps, similar to that used in X-ray work, five vacuum globes through which one current —the positive—is guided to the overhead wires in the field, the negative current being connected to a zinc plate about three feet square sunk into the ground; the small current of electricity required to excite the coil is obtained from a storage battery of 30 cells, and in the coil is transformed up to the enormous potential of 100,000 volts.

As the two signs of electricity—the positive and negative—have a natural affinity for each other, they are continuously striving to reach each other through the air space which separates them, and anyone walking below the wires, when the atmosphere is slightly moist, will experience the sensation as if a cobweb was on his face, which is caused by the discharge.

While this discharge of electricity is going on, from the wires to the earth and vice-versa, a minute current passes through the plants.

The discharge is usually kept on from five to six hours daily, the hours for running it varying according to atmospheric conditions. During periods of bright sunshine it is run in the early morning and late evening; on dull days it may be on all day; but on wet days, owing to leakage off the wires and down the poles, it is practically of little use to have it on at all.

The field chosen for the experiment is one in which the soil is as uniform as possible, and the amount of fertiliser applied is carefully weighed and distributed equally over both the electrified and control plots.

For the first three years, 1912, 1913, and 1914, the crop experimented on was potatoes, with the result that each season there was a considerable difference between the weight of crop lifted off the electrified and unelectrified areas.

For purposes of weighing with the greatest accuracy, the two plots were divided into spaces measuring one-tenth of an acre each—the tubers were put, when lifted, into sacks and weighed on scales which were placed near at hand.

The following table may be of interest as showing the increase in yield of tubers lifted under the discharge wires over those from the control :—

1912—Electrified, 10 cwt. 3 qrs. 5 lbs. more per acre than control.

1913—Electrified, 13 cwt. 3 qrs. 21 lbs. more per acre.

1914—Electrified, 1 ton, 3 cwt. 2 qrs. 1 lb. more than control per acre.

The great experimental difficulty lies in the impossibility of obtaining an absolute control area for comparison; the discharge is greatly effected by windage conditions, and sometimes is carried as far as three hundred yards beyond the network, when the wind attains a high velocity. Even on days when it is quite calm a slight charge always finds its way over to the control area.

It was attempted to obviate this drawback by erecting a wire screen between the two plots, raised three feet higher than the electrified network and well earthed at the bottom, hoping by this means to intercept the current before it reached the control area; but though by means of this screen the

amount of current that passed was considerably lessened, the leakage was never entirely overcome.

The complete success of investigations in this work depends upon an exact knowledge of the ratio between the average current densities on the electrified and control areas. For this purpose electric measurements are taken daily over both plots at various points by means of a sensitive electrometer with indexed scale, having a range from 1 to 800 volts. By means of an anemometer recording both direction and velocity, a chart of the wind is kept, and on this chart is marked the hours at which readings are taken off the electrometer, thus by a series of elaborate calculations the amounts of electrification that each plot receives is fairly accurately arrived at.

During the winter season of 1913-14 an experiment was conducted under glass at Lincluden House, the conditions of which conduced to observations of great accuracy being taken between the plants which were electrified and those grown for comparison.

A greenhouse 30 feet by 12 feet was divided in half by means of a half-inch mesh wire screen, reaching from the roof and well earthed, which effectually prevented any current passing through, no wind getting into the house to act as a carrier of electricity. A system of charged wires was suspended over the plants to be electrified, on the same principle as that used in the open field. The house was kept at an even temperature, averaging 55 deg. during the day and 45 deg. at night.

Seeds of barley were germinated in sawdust, and when of sufficient size to handle were placed in wide-mouthed bottles, covered with brown paper to insure the roots being kept in darkness; the bottles were filled by measurement with a specially prepared solution of distilled water, in which was dissolved the chief ingredients of soil necessary to plant growth, with one exception, that of nitrogen.

Eighty bottles were placed under the electrified wires, and the same number kept in the control portion of the house. Every ten days the plants were taken out and measured; the solution poured out of each bottle and measured in a measur-

ing glass for the purpose of discovering the rate of respiration and absorption in the plants; the figures were marked on a chart; the bottle refilled as before, and the plants replaced in them. From the very commencement of the experiment a marked difference was observed; the plants electrically treated developing much more rapidly than the control ones, both in root, leaf, and stalk. As soon as the nitrogen content of the seed had been exhausted in the control plants, they ceased to make growth, while the electrified seedlings increased rapidly. At the end of eight weeks all the plants were removed from their bottles; carefully dried in blotting paper; each plant done up in a separate piece of paper, labelled, and all sent to the laboratory at Leeds University for purposes of analysis. The figures of the analysis are not at present available, but the dry weight of the electrified plants exceeded those of the control by 41 per cent. The most striking points observed in this experiment was the fixation of nitrogen from the atmosphere through the medium of the discharge, and the increase in rate of respiration and absorption.

Last year, 1915, the crop chosen for the experiment was oats, which was grown on the same field as used for the previous trials with potatoes. As everyone in this district will remember the season was an exceptionally dry one, there was a scorching sun and the field being of a gravelly nature devoid of all shade, these combined conditions were not conducive to harvesting a heavy crop.

From the very commencement of growth the oats under the electrified network showed a conspicuous difference in comparison with the unelectrified, and did not suffer from the prevailing drought to the same extent, which fact seemed to confirm the theory suggested by Lemström that the electric current causes an ascent of liquid in the capillary tubes of the plants, and by means of this attraction it is quite possible that these tubes obtained moisture from a lower stratum, which the plants not under the discharge were unable to do.

When the crop was ripe for harvesting, the two plots were cut, thrashed, and weighed separately, showing the remarkable difference of 31 per cent. in grain and 63 per cent. in straw in favour of the electrified oats. The general

conclusions arrived at from the foregoing experiments may be summed up as follows :—

1. That under the influence of the electric discharge the ingredients of the soil necessary to plant growth are rendered more soluble, therefore more easy of assimilation.
2. That by aid of the electric current sap is enabled to flow more vigorously and the formation of sugar and starch is increased.
3. Respiration, absorption, and evaporation is accelerated, and that by increased chemical activity in the plant its whole fabric is improved.

In conjunction with these experiments at Lincluden Mains, laboratory research work of a most elaborate and technical nature is being carried on, to determine with the greatest accuracy the exact physiological processes which take place in the plants while subjected to electrical influence; on this subject the figures already obtained are not at the present time available, but when they are it is confidently believed that results of far-reaching importance will be forthcoming.

As must necessarily be the case in all scientific research, the cost of the experimental installation is excessive, but when conclusions are arrived at and details worked out as to the most practical means of applying the electric current, there is no reason to doubt that the apparatus required and its method of working will come well within the means of any practical farmer, requiring little technical knowledge to work, and that, in comparison with the increase in crop derived from its use, it will repay with interest the outlay entailed.

In conclusion, a few remarks on the application of electric light to plant growth may be of interest from the fact that, from investigations made in that direction, developments may result which would prove of inestimable value to the market gardener.

Extensive experiments have already been made from time to time showing that in the absence of sunshine during the winter months seeds may be germinated and seedlings

brought forward ready to plant out some weeks earlier than those grown under ordinary forcing conditions.

At Lincluden House in the winter months of 1912-13 experiments were tried with violet rays derived from mercury vapour lamps. A greenhouse was divided into two parts by a screen covered with black cloth, which entirely prevented any radiation from the lamps penetrating to the part kept for comparison; the light was switched on every evening at sunset and kept on for five hours; the temperature of the house was maintained at an average maximum of 54 deg. and minimum 44 deg., though on several occasions when there was hard frost it fell as low as 38 deg., and during hours of bright sunshine rose to 70 deg.

Germination under the violet light was accelerated, seedlings showed strong robust growth, so much so that they could be planted out in the open without the necessity of being "hardened off," while in the control portion of the house, where the plants were not exposed to the violet light, they were weak in growth, and in many instances died off before nearing maturity.

Some cauliflower plants grown under the influence of the lamp were planted out when first showing their centre leaves, and although exposed to several degrees of frost, their growth was in no way checked, and they produced large finely-shaped heads fully a week earlier than those raised in an adjoining forcing house, brought on under forcing conditions.

Tomato seedlings exposed to the light when about seven inches high were in blossom on the 31st day, and the trusses were set two weeks later, but although the fruit set well and the plants bore heavy trusses, they were long in ripening and the fruit of a bad shape, many being double and even treble, the skin thick, and the flesh coarse.

The general conclusion formed from the experiment with regard to plants which were left to come to maturity under the violet rays was that the whole fabric of the plant was improved, they blossomed freely, and produced heavy crops, while the contrary was found to be the case in the control

plants. In the case of the control tomatoes they died off before they arrived at the stage of blossoming.

A microscopic examination was made of both experimental and control plants, which showed a very much greater accumulation of granules containing chlorophyl in the treated plants, the stems presented large quantities of strengthening fibre, while the control plants had practically none.

To make the experiment of practical value the light might be profitably used for germinating seeds and for bringing on strong hardy seedlings without the heat and work entailed under ordinary forcing conditions, but for ripening, so far it has been found of little value.

The subject is one which requires much careful research, which unfortunately, owing to other work on hand, has been rendered impossible at Lincluden; but investigation on the subject is being continued elsewhere, and we may hope to hear of some very interesting results of a practical as well as scientific nature in the near future.

The Chairman, in moving a vote of thanks, pointed out that growing crops are constantly extracting from the soil three chemical ingredients—nitrogen, potassium, and phosphoric acid—and these have to be restored to the ground. Hitherto this has been done by the aid of farm manure and nitrates, obtained from the Guano Islands, South America, and other rainless districts, where there are deposits of nitrate of soda, and where the action of moisture and evaporation does not restore the nitrogen to the atmosphere. But the natural supply of nitrates is limited, and in such demand that there is danger of its becoming gradually exhausted, hence the great importance of finding means of drawing upon the inexhaustible supply contained in the atmosphere. He believed the air we breathe contains about 80 per cent. of nitrogen, and it has already been proved that some of this nitrogen may be transferred to the soil in a manner suitable for the nourishment of vegetation. In this room about four years ago the Society had an interesting lecture by Professor Priestly, in which he explained the principle on which this can be accomplished. At the same meeting were given the results

of experiments made by Miss Dudgeon in 1911. These showed that potatoes grown under such a system weighed 18½ per cent. more than was produced on adjacent ground of exactly the same area without such treatment. Miss Dudgeon now gives us the result of subsequent experiments made during the three following seasons, and it is satisfactory to notice a steady improvement in each successive year. Last year (1915) the same experiment was made with a crop of oats, when the relative gain was 31 per cent. in grain and 63 per cent. in straw. Everything was done under the supervision of an expert appointed by Government, whose duty it was to see that all conditions were uniform, and the results accurately ascertained and recorded. Now practical people may probably want to know something about the appliances required and the expenses involved by this process. He happened to know that the engine and dynamo, which produced all the electric current used by Miss Dudgeon, cost less than £50, or about the price of one farm horse. The high tension transformer was more expensive, and there was the storage battery, wires, poles, insulators, etc., which must vary according to circumstances, but the total capital expenditure in 1911 did not exceed £175, including plant sufficient to treat 15 acres of land. All management and manipulation was done by Miss Dudgeon herself, the working expenses were therefore confined to the cost of fuel or petrol and lubricating oil. Petrol and oil are becoming expensive, but it is possible to obtain electric current without fuel of any kind. Last year, after careful investigation, he found that 1500 horse-power could be generated from high level lochs on Lord Galloway's property in the parish of Minnigaff, and the speaker believed that water now running to waste in the Stewartry would produce enough electricity to fertilise all the arable land in the county. It seemed to him that what remains to be done is to find the most simple, safe, and least expensive method of inducing the atmosphere to lend some of its superfluous nitrogen for the nourishment of the soil, just as the air we breathe gives vitality to every living creature, including mankind.

PRESENTATIONS.

24th March, 1916.—Mr Donald Urquhart, on behalf of Mr J. W. Dods, Dumfries—A Stone Weight, perforated, found in the Haugh-of-Urr Churchyard, about 18 inches below the surface—perhaps once used as a balance or loom weight.

Mr J. H. Gurney, F.R.S.—*The Gannet, a Bird with a History.*

EXHIBITS.

21st January, 1916.—Mr J. S. Drummond—A fine display of Postage Stamps, with special reference to those of German Colonies.

11th February, 1916.—Mr M. H. M'Kerrow—Four Square Metal Blocks which had been secured during the recent alterations to the Post Office, Dumfries. They had probably been built into the walls of the Old Prison, and from the iron rings inserted in them, it may be presumed that the prisoners were chained to them. A Small Stone Whorl found on Calf Park Farm, Mouswald.

10th March, 1916.—Mr M. H. M'Kerrow, on behalf of Mr W. M'Naught, St. Ninian's, Maxwelltown—(1) A Handbill denouncing Laird Armstrong, writer, as a rascal, a liar, and a coward, signed Geo. B. Vair, Leith, 6th Feb., 1822. The gentleman denounced in this libellous document afterwards became Provost of Dumfries. He and the Leith gentleman were rivals for the hand of Miss Dinah Grieve, daughter of a Dumfries wine merchant, whose business premises were "The Pillars," on the High Street site now occupied by the shops of Mr Montgomery, bookseller, and Mr Constantine, painter. The budding Provost, who had the advantage of the father's preference, was ultimately the successful suitor. His disappointed rival drove from Leith in a chaise, accompanied by a friend; sent to Mr Armstrong a challenge to fight a duel; and drove off next day without leaving much time for acceptance of the cartel, having before his leaving made arrangements to placard the town with some copies of the handbill, which appears to have been brought ready printed from Leith.

(2) A Citation by John Richardson, junior, Constable, served on William M'Naught, son to Convener M'Naught (and great-grandfather of the owner of the document), to appear before the Lieutenancy at Dumfries on 20th September, 1803, to be enrolled under the Militia Ballot.

(3) A Letter of Guarantee by Messrs Broom, Harkness, and others to Mr Robert Threshie of Barnbarroch in connection with loans made to the Nith Navigation Commission in 1836. The signatories explain to Mr Threshie that the letter is "to remove any doubt in your mind as to coming under greater advances on account of the Nith Navigation Commission than at the last settlement of account, and particularly with reference to the operations upon the river now in progress from Kelton ford upwards." It is signed by Thomas Kennedy, Samuel Affleck, Francis Nicholson, Thomas Harkness, James Broom, Samuel Blaine, jun., Alex. Lookup, and Robert Sloan.

(4) An Account for a dinner served in the Commercial Inn, 21 High Street, Dumfries, on 19th February, 1821. It is receipted by Jane Williamson, the proprietrix. It shows that the customers spent six shillings on the meal, and imbibed whisky, ale, etc., to the amount of five shillings and sixpence. A novel feature about the account is that a charge of sixpence is made for the services of the waiters.

(5) Letter from Thomas Carlyle to Mr M'Kie, bookseller, Dumfries:—

Craigenputtock, 11th March, 1834.

Dear Sir,—Here are two Boxes of old Books, which still do not exhaust my stock; if you can change them for me into money they will be much more easily carried in that latter shape.

Most of them are of very small value, and I have left you to dispose of them according to your own judgement and opportunity: a few I have marked as more notable, or hypothetically worth a Price, which is in general some thirty per cent. less than I bought them at in the same second-hand condition. You must do the best you can: I shall see you again in a week or two.

An Invoice is inclosed, which (tho' wrong ordered in the copying) will if you attend to my marginal directions give you the Books somewhat in their actual order and position from top to bottom of the boxes. I keep the original of it here.

The little box is not my own: as there are but a small number of Books in it, perhaps you could get it emptied, and returned to-morrow by this same cart. But at any rate there will be other opportunities. Only do not lose that Box, for it suits a special purpose here.

I remain (in great haste),

Yours truly,

T. CARLYLE.

Mr M. H. M'Kerrow—A Volume in his possession containing a verbatim report of the evidence taken in a Court of Session action for damages for libel brought by Mr Armstrong, writer (see above). The jury awarded Mr Armstrong twenty guineas.

24th March, 1916.—Mr John Johnstone, Millbank, Moffat—A Handbill, framed, issued by the Dumfriesshire Lieutenancy, calling on the different parishes in the County to supply 284 men by Ballot for the Militia, on 9th December, 1802. The exhibitor appended the following note:—

The 1st Sub-division at Thornhill had to furnish	58 men
2nd Sub-division at Tinwald	18 men
3rd Sub-Division at Dumfries	58 men
4th Sub-division at Mouswald	8 men
5th Sub-division at Dalton	
6th Sub-division at Annan	23 men
7th Sub-division at Kirkpatrick-Fleming	
8th Sub-division at Langholm	28 men
9th Sub-division at Lockerbie	50 men

I am unable to give the number of men to be furnished by the 5th and 7th divisions separately, but combined the number was 41. The ballot in all the divisions was to be held on the same day, viz., 9th December, 1802, at 12 o'clock noon. In connection with the administration of the Ballot Act, the person drawn did not require to personally serve, but if he did not do so had to provide a suitable substitute, and for this purpose associations were formed over the whole country to pay the bounty required and demanded by the substitute for supplying the balloted man's place. Such an association was in existence at Moffat and Upper Annandale, and was largely supported by the inhabitants who came under the scope of the Act. Not much information can be gathered about this Moffat Society, but from two of its scroll minutes in my possession it seems to have been in a flourishing state. In the year 1803 John Halliday was president, Samuel M'Millan treasurer, and the secretary was Samuel Brown, a lawyer practising in the town. The membership subscription was one guinea, and the bounty offered to substitutes was twenty guineas, but this was not sufficient for the purpose, and the minute of 29th July, 1803, states:—"Samuel Brown further represented that he caused advertisements to be put upon the most public places offering a bounty of 20 guineas to substitutes, but that none had appeared to offer themselves, the meeting authorise him to enlist substitutes on such condition as shall appear to him reasonable, and even to offer larger bounties than the 20 guineas." It is interesting to note the extent to which substitutes supplied the places of the men actually drawn in the ballot. In the year 1803, 43,492 were raised by the ballot in England, and of these 2554 actually served, the balance, 40,938, were substitutes.

ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR YEAR ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER, 1915.

I.—On Account of Capital.

CHARGE.

Sum invested on Bond and Disposition in Security ...	£200	0	0
Life Subscription—Dr Carruthers, Edinburgh	5	0	0
Sum on Deposit Receipt	31	2	0
	£236	2	0

DISCHARGE.

Nil.

II.—On Account of Revenue.

CHARGE.

By Annual Subscriptions:—270 at 7/6; 14 at 3/9; and 7 at 5/-	£105	12	6
Books and *Transactions* sold	6	5	0
Mitchell Library, Glasgow	0	12	6
Interest on Loan, less Tax	6	16	6
	£119	6	6

DISCHARGE.

Balance due to Treasurer	£6	2	8
Rent, Taxes, and Insurance	11	1	0
Books, etc., bought, including Cost of *Transactions* ...	89	15	4
Stationery and Advertising	6	13	9
Miscellaneous	7	18	11
	£121	11	8

ABSTRACT.

I.—On Account of Capital.

Amount of Charge	£236	2	0
Amount of Discharge	Nil.		

II.—On Account of Revenue.

Amount of Charge	£119	6	6
Amount of Discharge	121	11	8
Excess of Discharge	£2	5	2

I have examined the foregoing Accounts, and have found them correct and sufficiently stated and vouched. The balance due to the Treasurer is Two Pounds Five Shillings and Twopence sterling.

(Signed) BERTRAM M'GOWAN, Auditor.

18th December, 1915.

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